

Algeria appeals for calm in Berber area

ALGERIA (AFP) — The Algerian government appealed for calm Tuesday after Berber groups threatened all out war with Muslim militants unless kidnapped Berber singer Louane was released. The Interior Ministry warned the Berbers it would not tolerate any action "which would lead the way to civil war" in the country, already wracked by violence between the fundamentalists and security forces. The Berber Cultural Movement (MCB) has warned the kidnappers to release the singer safe and sound by 10:00 a.m. (0900 GMT) Wednesday or face all out war. Mr. Matoub is very popular within the Berber community and has strongly opposed the fundamentalist's campaign for an Islamic state in Algeria. His kidnapping on Monday in a Tizi-Ouzou by a snatch squad said to be "speaking in fundamentalist language" had still to be claimed Tuesday. The singer was captured outside a cafe by a group of 20 men wielding pistols and sawn-off shotguns, witnesses told AFP. A leader of the 23 said Tuesday that the Berbers, who make up 17 per cent of Algeria population, had already set up self-defence and hate groups and could easily "move onto the offensive."



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي

Omani leader sends message to Saleh

ADEN (R) — Oman's Information Minister Abdul Aziz Al Rowass arrived in Sanaa on Tuesday with a message from Sultan Qaboos to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the official SABA news agency said. The agency said the message dealt with bilateral relations and regional developments but gave no further details. Mr. Saleh visited Oman earlier this month. His talks with Sultan Qaboos covered Sanaa's relations with neighbouring Gulf countries. He was reported by diplomats in Muscat to have sought the sultan's help in mending fences between Yemen and other Gulf Arab states. Mr. Saleh's relations with Gulf states, with the exception of Qatar, became strained during the Yemeni civil war earlier this year over their alleged sympathy with southern secessionists.

Jordan reaffirms role in Jerusalem, cuts ties with West Bank Awqaf

King instructs government to continue to support Palestinians and to counter attempts to create rift

by a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Tuesday reaffirmed its resolve to maintain its historic role in Jerusalem but refused all links to all Muslim sites in the West Bank.

The decision to include the Muslim sites in the West Bank, excluding Jerusalem, in the Kingdom's 1988 decision to sever all legal and administrative ties with the West Bank was announced by the government after a meeting chaired by King Hussein.

The move came as the National Authority announced it wanted to take control of the Muslim sites in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, which have been heavily under the guard of Jordan, as of Oct.

would not have any bearing on Jordanian-Palestinian relations and reiterated that Jordan was firm and unwavering in its support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people.

"In view of the special status of Jerusalem and the compelling circumstances surrounding it, and with the purpose of ensuring the continuation of the Jordanian role in safeguarding the city's holy shrines in the face of any danger or tampering with such status and in a bid to forestall any attempt by any party to exploit the vacuum that would emerge, the government has decided to uphold and continue Jordan's legal and administrative responsibility over the Awqaf and Islamic holy places and the Islamic judiciary in Jerusalem," said a government statement. Jordan's action is based on the "religious and historic mandate of guardianship it has assumed over the years," it said.

"The government has decided to consider all Awqaf and Islamic courts in the

West Bank except Jerusalem as subject to the Kingdom's 1988 decision to sever all legal and administrative ties with the West Bank," it said. "Subsequently, the government will introduce amendments to laws related to government departments in the West Bank as contained in the 1988 regulations in a manner that would ensure the implementation of the decision concerning the status of Awqaf in the West Bank.

"The government has decided to deal with the employees of Awqaf institutions in the West Bank, except for Jerusalem, in a manner that would preserve their full rights according to Jordanian laws and regulations. In this respect, the government expresses deep appreciation of the efforts of all these employees for shouldering their responsibilities and offering sacrifices that have contributed to the preservation of the holy shrines in the occupied territories.

"The government, which has been forced to take these

decisions in the light of recent developments, would like to emphasise the Kingdom's strong and unwavering solidarity with the people of the occupied territories. The government, in implementation with King Hussein's directives, will continue to provide backing and support for them through all possible means and would not allow any party to try to harm the firm and solid relations binding the Jordanian and Palestinian people on the two sides of the eternal River Jordan."

Despite the 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank, King Hussein, a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad, maintained his guardianship of Muslim holy sites in the West Bank.

Over the years, Jordan spent millions of dollars for the upkeep of holy shrines scattered around the West Bank and Jerusalem. Officials say the Kingdom spends \$9 million annually for the maintenance of shrines and

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His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday chairs a Cabinet meeting (Petra photo)

Peace entails non-political challenges — Crown Prince

WASHINGTON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has stressed that Jordan would remain committed to working for peace and enhancing democracy as well as respect for human rights.

In speeches delivered on his behalf by Information Minister Jawad Anani, the Crown Prince said that Jordan would also strive to promote free trade and security in the region.

In addresses to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Middle East Policy Council, the Crown Prince emphasised the need for tackling new challenges at the social and economic and humanitarian levels which would ensue in the wake of a peace treaty in the region.

Peacemakers are trying to handle security, borders and water issues — being the most vital issues of concern to the two sides — and it is essential that they reach a satisfactory settlement that can achieve justice, he said.

At the multilateral phase of the peace process, Jordan is striving to settle issues pertaining to security which cannot be solved through economic solutions but rather through the demarcation of borders which guarantee the territorial rights of each party, said the Crown Prince.

The Prince also proposed that a general conference on security and cooperation be held in the Middle East following the signing of a peace treaty.

Such a conference, he said, can help the countries of the region confront the challenges of the future.



State to pay for difference in water charges

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government on Tuesday announced that it would bear the difference in actual payments for the last quarter of this year resulting from a decision to increase the tariffs for water used for agriculture purposes and to allocate JD1 million for part of the difference in payments coming after Jan. 1, 1995.

The decision was taken at a meeting held by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Al Masri, members of the Agriculture Committee of the House, Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif and Planning Minister and acting Minister of Water and Irrigation Hisham Al Khatib.

Mr. Ben Tarif also announced after the meeting that the government, upon directives by His Majesty King Hussein, would settle JD11 million in interests due on loans given to farmers by the Agriculture Credit Corporation (ACC) and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation.

King Hussein happened to be visiting the Prime Ministry while the meeting was in progress and met with the participants in the talks, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The decision to increase the cost of agriculture water from six fils to 15 fils per cubic metre had drawn angry protests from farmers.

Farmers, supported by several members of Parliament, staged a sit-in last

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to give priority to banks, industries

AMMAN (Petra) — The Communication Corporation's (TCC) board on Tuesday decided that absolute priority for phone lines will be given to banks, shareholding companies and factories set up in industrial areas and estates.

Dweik, acting director of the TCC, said. The board meeting was held by Minister of State acting Minister of Post and Communications Abdul-Jazi.

Israeli delegation arrives today

AMMAN (Petra) — The leader of the Pakistani parliament arrives here Wednesday as the head of a Pakistani parliamentary delegation on a four-day visit to Jordan. The delegation will hold talks with the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament on means of developing bilateral relations in the field.

hathir heads Turkey, Jordan

LA LUMPUR (AP) — The Minister Mahathir arrived Tuesday on a day visit to Turkey, Jordan and Turkmenistan. His member delegation was to visit Turkey, where Mahathir was expected to sign a trade agreement, foreign ministry officials said. In Istanbul from Thursday to Oct. 3, the prime minister was expected to complete agreements on trade, investment, and economic, cultural and cooperation.

decides not to raise interest

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Federal Reserve Board decided not to raise interest rates Tuesday during the meeting of the Open Market Committee, a spokesman for the U.S. central bank said. A spokesman simply announced the session ended with no announcement of hikes. The committee

PLO, Arab League protest Rabin's settlement decision

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Arab League on Tuesday protested a decision by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to allow a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank to double its population within three years.

"We strongly condemn this decision and we will be officially referring it to the Israelis," Marwan Kanafani, spokesman for PLO leader Yasser Arafat, told AFP.

He said an official reaction from the Palestinian National Authority would be published later.

The daily Haaretz said Monday that Mr. Rabin had decided at the beginning of August to "unfreeze" building in the Alfe Menashe settlement which is close to the "green line" separating Israel from the West Bank.

A list of settlements which will be allowed to restart

building has also been prepared by the housing ministry, the paper added.

In Cairo, the 22-member Arab League described Mr. Rabin's decision as "a flagrant violation" of the accords signed by Israel and the PLO and "a challenge to international legality which bans any demographic changes in the occupied territories."

Israel has admitted that in one West Bank settlement it would ignore the construction freeze imposed by the government in 1992.

An Israeli official, speaking anonymously, said other settlements also would be expanded to bolster territorial claims in future talks with the PLO.

The decision to renew building challenges the legal principle of not changing the demographics in occupied territory, the Arab League said. It referred to the Fourth Geneva Convention, which

prohibits an occupying power from moving its citizens to occupied land.

Since Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war, about 130 settlements have been built which house about 120,000 Israelis.

The Arab League also said the renewed settlement construction in occupied territory was against the spirit of Israeli-PLO accords, which put off a decision on what to do with Jewish settlements until talks beginning in 1996.

The Arab League urged the international community to "force Israel to halt its plans aimed at getting round the resolutions of international legality and obstructing the peace process."

Housing Minister Binjamin Ben Eliezer announced in July 1992 when Mr. Rabin's government

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White House meeting set for Oct. 3

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton has invited His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to meet at the White House on Oct. 3, the administration said Tuesday.

The meeting is scheduled to take place in October to mark the anniversary of the first meeting between the two under the aegis of the White House. That session last year created the trilateral commission between Israel, Jordan and the United States.

The commission laid the groundwork for the historic peace declaration signed in Washington between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on July 25.

Mr. Peres, responding to Israeli reports indicating a date would be set at the meeting for the signing of a peace agreement between the two countries, said in New York: "It is not a matter of a date, it is a matter of an agreement. We must find solutions to the two main issues, to the border... and the issue of water."

Mr. Peres is in New York this week for the U.N. General Assembly.

Israel's Haaretz newspaper said sources in Washington expected the three participants would have "good tidings of a breakthrough in negotiations between Israel and Jordan towards a peace treaty."

Mainstream press lags behind in democratisation — panelists

By P.V. Vivekanand and Samir Barhoum
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Amidst the democratisation process in Jordan since 1989, the mainstream press of the Kingdom did make progress but did not rise to the level of taking the initiative and contributing to creative changes, four prominent journalists agreed Tuesday.

While the number of publications, including tabloids and political party newspapers, has gone up dramatically in the last five years, the three established newspapers remained mostly entrenched in the traditional approach to their coverage of news, they said.

Nabil Al Sharif, chief editor of Al Dustour, Fahd

Fanek, a leading Al Ra'i columnist, Lamis Andoni, a Jordan Times reporter and the Amman correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, and George Hawatmeh, chief editor of the Jordan Times, made the point at a two-day seminar on "The Role of Media in a Democracy — the Case of Jordan."

Also discussed in the morning and afternoon sessions of the seminar, organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan, and funded by a grant from the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung, a German institution, was the role of Jordan Television and Radio and media coverage of the Middle East peace process in the Jordanian media.

In the morning session, chaired by Dr. Sima Bahous, media and development con-

sultant, Mr. Hawatmeh presented an overview of the changes that the Jordanian media scene witnessed in the past four years.

Mr. Hawatmeh drew a clear distinction between the three pre-1989 Arabic language newspapers — Al Ra'i, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shaab — and the tabloids and weeklies that came to the scene since then and noted that the post-1989 publications accounted for only 10 per cent of the total Jordanian readership.

As such, the Jordan Times chief editor argued, any assessment of change has to be based on the performance of the three newspapers in pre-1989 days and today.

Mr. Hawatmeh said that if the yardstick for measuring

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U.S. troops take over key buildings in Port-au-Prince

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — American troops took over Haiti's parliament building and city hall Tuesday, preparing for the return of Haiti's elected lawmakers and the Port-au-Prince mayor.

To clear the streets of weapons, the Americans began their guns-for-money programme Tuesday, paying \$50 to \$300 to anyone who turns in a firearm.

U.S. military police stretched razor wire about 20 metres outside the parliament building, while soldiers in green camouflage uniforms patrolled the roof and stood guard inside the main gate.

A large crowd of Haitians gathered to watch, booing loudly as a truckload of Haitian police drove by.

At city hall, armoured vehicles were parked just inside the compound and U.S. army jeeps with machine guns mounted on top stood guard outside.

The parliament was to convene Wednesday to begin discussions on amnesty law for

of the deal worked but by the military junta and a U.S. delegation headed by former President Jimmy Carter.

U.S. sources said they expected Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul to return to his office at city hall.

Mr. Paul, who was President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's campaign manager, has been in hiding for much of the three years since Mr. Aristide was overthrown by the military.

U.S. officials also took control of the hillside electoral council building, a move that might indicate the United States will have a strong say in partial elections scheduled for December.

In other developments: The U.N. Development Programme said Tuesday that its warehouse in Port-au-Prince was ransacked and 11 tonnes of food taken. Spokesman Ian Guest estimated the value of food lost at \$35,000.

The U.S. Air Force began taking over security Tuesday

U.S. soldier killed

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A U.S. soldier was found shot to death in Haiti on Tuesday in what appeared to be a suicide, a Pentagon spokesman said.

It was the first death reported among U.S. troops who entered the country eight days ago.

A soldier from the 10th Mountain Division died of an apparent gunshot today in Haiti, said Commander Joe Gradisher, a Pentagon spokesman. "On-scene authorities are calling it an apparent suicide and are investigating it as such," Cmdr. Gradisher said, reading from a statement.

He said the soldier had been on duty at the Villa d'Acceuil, a Haiti state guest house in Port-au-Prince due to house members of parliament attending a special session beginning Wednesday. No other details were

Clinton, Yeltsin hail ties

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton hailed Tuesday a summit meeting here with Russian President Boris Yeltsin as a "historic opportunity" to smooth out lingering differences between the former cold war rivals.

But the Russian leader admitted candidly that the new partnership was not an easy one.

"It is fair to say that the United States is a strong partner, and not an easy one to deal with, just like Russia," Mr. Yeltsin stated at an opening ceremony on the White House lawn in which he was treated to full military honours.

The two days of talks were to focus on widening trade and boosting U.S. investment to Russia but the leaders were also to tackle foreign policy issues that have in the past placed the two nuclear powers at odds.

States has threatened unilaterally to lift an arms embargo against the mostly-Muslim Bosnian government, a move staunchly opposed by Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin reiterated Moscow's opposition to lifting the arms embargo, stating at the outset of one-on-one talks with Mr. Clinton that he would respond "negatively" to any U.S. move in that direction.

Mr. Clinton sought to reassure the Russian leader, stating: "We have worked together every step of the way... we're going to do our best to stay together."

President Clinton, who greeted President Yeltsin with a handshake and a hug Tuesday, said they would discuss their differences in a "climate of warm peace, not cold war."

Mr. Yeltsin responded that neither America nor Russia is an easy country to deal with

more exciting" to join hands in partnership.

"The dialogue between the Russian and American presidents has begun in earnest," Mr. Yeltsin proclaimed.

At the ceremonies on the White House lawn, Mr. Clinton stressed areas of increasing U.S.-Russian cooperation and praised Mr. Yeltsin's role in reforming Russia.

He declared the two countries were "growing closer together, replacing suspicion and fear with trust and cooperation."

"Today we meet not as adversaries, but as partners in the quest for a more prosperous and a more peaceful planet," Mr. Clinton said.

"In so many areas, our interest no longer conflict; they coincide, and where we do disagree, we can discuss our differences in a climate of warm peace, not cold war,"

Mr. Clinton said they would discuss their differences in a "climate of warm peace, not cold war."

Mr. Yeltsin responded that neither America nor Russia is an easy country to deal with

Ekeus to visit Iraq in October for more work on monitoring

MANAMA (R) — U.N. arms envoy Rolf Ekeus is to visit Iraq next month as his commission prepares for long-term monitoring of Iraqi weaponry.

Mr. Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM), would head for Baghdad in the first half of October though no date had been fixed, spokesman Rolf Opsahl told reporters.

Mr. Ekeus has said UNSCOM would need to conduct long-term monitoring of Iraq for at least six months before he can certify to the U.N. Security Council that Iraq has complied on the weapons destruction.

He said this month he hoped the process could begin by the end of September, but the issue is politically charged since it is potentially linked to an end of the U.N. oil embargo on Iraq.

The United Nations recently renewed sanctions imposed on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait in 1990, among them an embargo on exports of Iraqi oil.

The influential oil industry newsletter Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported from Cyprus on Monday that because of positions taken by Iraq and by the United States, which strongly opposes lifting the sanctions, it appeared unlikely the oil embargo would be lifted by mid-1995 as once seemed possible.

The embargo has devastated Iraq's economy and a government newspaper in Baghdad reported at the weekend that rations of staples such as flour, rice and cooking oil had been reduced by as much as half.

Dozens of U.N. weapons teams have visited Baghdad to destroy or neutralise Iraq's known nuclear, biological and chemical weapons as well as ballistic missiles, as required under terms of the

ceasefire ending the Gulf war in which U.S.-led allies drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

The inspectors have also laid the groundwork for long-term monitoring — installing video and film cameras and a data processing centre — to ensure that these weapons are not replaced.

On Monday, an 11-member U.N. chemical team returned to Bahrain, the field headquarters of U.N. missions visiting Baghdad, after an 11-day information-gathering mission in Iraq.

Team leader James Poarch, an American, told reporters that his team had visited all known and declared chemical sites in Iraq.

"This is a chemical protocol-building mission to take a picture of the plant or the site as it is today to record exact activities... so that we can build a protocol with a site folder containing all the information on the site," Mr. Poarch said.

"We have visited 12 chemical production sites over the entire country — some in the north, some in the south, east and west — two of them near Baghdad," he added.

Mr. Poarch said his team had laid the groundwork for long-term monitoring and said there would be at least four chemical experts resident in Baghdad.

The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said it would maintain a two-member team in Iraq to overlook its long-term monitoring of Baghdad's facility.

IAEA expert Garry Dillon said this month that the IAEA was able to begin its long-term monitoring.

A U.N. inspection team said late in August that long-term monitoring of Iraq's biological technology could begin after mid-September when it completed guidelines for the programme.

Saudi gems witness emerges; story remains a mystery

BANGKOK (Agencies) — A key witness in the Saudi gems case emerged from hiding Tuesday, but refused to answer questions publicly on the case which allegedly led to the kidnapping and murder of his wife and 14-year-old son.

Santi Sritbanakan, a Bangkok gems trader, told reporters at Crime Suppression Division (CSD) headquarters the case was "up to the investigating team to whom I have given my testimony."

The 15-minute press conference, held under tight security, was Mr. Santi's first public appearance since the discovery Aug. 1 of the bodies of his wife and son in a car abandoned on a roadside northeast of Bangkok.

Eleven people have been charged, five of them police officers, in the murder of the pair.

On Tuesday Mr. Santi, wearing sunglasses and flanked by two lawyers, failed to confirm allegations which had circulated widely in the local press about direct police involvement in that kidnapping and murder.

On advice of the lawyers, he repeatedly refused to answer questions about the disappearance of millions of dollars in gems belonging to a Saudi prince, although he admitted having returned any gems in his possession to

police.

The jewels were stolen in 1989 by a Thai servant in the prince's palace. Police recovered most when they arrested the servant who had fled home to Thailand, but only about 30 per cent were eventually returned to the prince.

Seven police officers and one civilian are on trial for embezzlement of the jewels. Seven other police officers, including a former national police chief, have since been charged as well.

Mr. Santi said Tuesday he did not know the identity of the people who kidnapped his wife and son, but had given 2.5 million baht (\$100,000) to "bad guys."

"I don't know who they were. They contacted me by telephone and I assigned a trusted friend to hand over the money," he added.

He said that he personally had been detained earlier by a suspect in the kidnapping case, police Lieutenant-General Chalor Kerthas, but that Gen. Chalor had demanded "information" from him, not a ransom.

Mr. Santi was not allowed to answer specific questions because, said one of his lawyers, "it might affect the case," apparently a reference to the Saudi gems trial in which Mr. Santi is both a witness and suspect.



KING VISITS PRIME MINISTRY: His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday confers with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali during a visit he paid to the prime ministry

where he also chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers. The King was accompanied by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (left) (Petra photo)

Ex-general criticises Tehran government

NICOSIA (R) — A national former Iranian general who headed the military police after the 1979 Islamic revolution has issued a statement urging President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to implement democratic reforms or step down.

"The nation is in poverty and the country is on the verge of an explosion. The leaders who have ruled the country for years are responsible for this misery," Azzollah Amir-Rahimi said in the statement circulated on a limited basis in Iran.

"The only way to save the country is through deep changes in the way the country is run, and if Mr. Rafsanjani is not capable of doing this he should concede to a national salvation government," he said.

Mr. Amir-Rahimi, speaking by telephone from his Tehran home, told Reuters people were widely dissatisfied with lack of freedom and economic hardships and he felt obliged to speak out.

"People are ready to get organised. The day a party is set up thousands of people will rally around it," he said.

There was no immediate reaction from the government to the statement. In recent years authorities have sometimes arrested liberal politicians who issued similar critical statements.

Mr. Amir-Rahimi, around 70, headed the military police for several months after the 1979 revolution when the liberal Mehdi Bazargan was prime minister.

He called among other things for freeing political prisoners, reinstating officers purged from the army after 1979, returning confiscated property to their owners and investigating secret executions.

"People want to choose anyone they wish for president. They do not want to be given a list of two or three people and be told to choose among them," Mr. Amir-Rahimi said, referring to the vetting of the candidates by a committee of senior clerics.

Mr. Amir-Rahimi said he was the first person to become a general in Iran after revolution and had spent four years in jail under the pro-West Shah's regime for nationalist views.

CIA: Iran 8 to 10 years from nuclear bombs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) believes Iran will be able to build its own nuclear weapons in eight to 10 years, and that it is focusing on Russia as a potential source of key materials and direction, according to the spy agency's chief.

R. James Woolsey, CIA director, told a Washington think tank that in addition to an aggressive effort to strengthen its conventional defences, Iran has put a high priority on acquiring nuclear weapons.

"We believe that Iran is eight to 10 years away from building such weapons, and that help from the outside will be critical in reaching that timetable," Mr. Woolsey said.

Mr. Woolsey spoke to a conference sponsored by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy last Friday. A text of his prepared remarks was released by the

institute Monday.

"Iran has been particularly active in trying to purchase nuclear materials or technology clandestinely from Russian sources," Mr. Woolsey said. He did not elaborate on the Russian connection, but he added that Iran also is trying to buy fully fabricated nuclear weapons as a shortcut to becoming a nuclear power.

Iran, as a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), has officially forsworn any nuclear weapons ambitions. It has not acknowledged trying to build nuclear weapons.

Mr. Woolsey also sounded an alarm about Iraq's military ambitions.

While noting that enforcement of U.N. sanctions has paralysed Iraq's nuclear weapons development, Mr. Woolsey said President Saddam Hussein is still hiding a chemical weapons arsenal and appears bent on preserving a nuclear weapons potential.

"Iraq has the largest pool of scientific and technical expertise in the Arab World — over 7,000 nuclear scientists and engineers alone," Mr. Woolsey said.

He said Iraq is accelerating construction of deep underground shelters and tunnels to produce and store weapons of mass destruction, such as chemical munitions.

Together, Iran and Iraq pose a significant threat to U.S. interests in the Middle East, Mr. Woolsey said, even though the two countries fought an eight-year war in the 1980s.

"These two regimes are united in their opposition to the peace process, in their willingness to use terrorism, in their efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction, and in their desire to eliminate any outside powers which could thwart their ambitions," Mr. Woolsey asserted.

Demjanjuk leads quiet life year after release

CLEVELAND (AP) — These days, John Demjanjuk is putting around his back yard garden, fixing things in the house and cutting the lawn.

The portly 74-year-old grandfather some say is a Nazi war criminal never discusses the seven years he spent confined to a small cell while awaiting execution in Israel.

"For the most part, things have been calm and uneventful," son-in-law Ed Nishnic said.

Mr. Demjanjuk was accused of being Ivan the terrible, a sadistic guard at the Nazi camp in Treblinka, Poland. He was convicted in Israel in 1988 of crimes against humanity. A year ago last week, he returned to the United States after the Israeli supreme court overturned his conviction.

The court said Mr. Demjanjuk's defence lawyers had found evidence suggesting that another man, Ivan Marchenko, might have been Ivan. The justices said they still believed Demjanjuk had served the Nazi regime, but refused to order a new trial.

Mr. Demjanjuk, a native of Ukraine, has always insisted he was a Red Army soldier who spent most of the war in a German prisoner-of-

war camp. He has denied working in the Nazi camps, although prosecutors introduced evidence they said showed he had been trained as a camp guard.

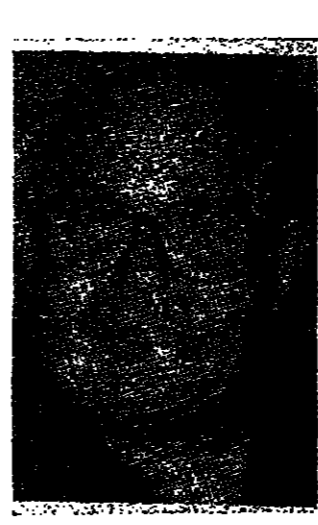
As Mr. Demjanjuk tries to lead a quiet life in his modest brick home in suburban Seven Hills, attempts have been made to disrupt it. Groups led by Rabbi Avi Weiss of the New York-based coalition of Jewish Concerns have conducted numerous protests on his street.

The frequency of the protests has diminished during the year. Rabbi Weiss led a protest Thursday outside Mr. Demjanjuk's home to mark the anniversary of his return.

"The wheels of justice have moved too slowly," Rabbi Weiss said. "It's a perversion of American justice that physically, he is a free man."

Mr. Demjanjuk's family has shielded him from reporters and he has refused to grant interviews. Mr. Nishnic said Mr. Demjanjuk would comment until all of the questions surrounding his U.S. citizenship have been settled — and maybe not even then.

"Maybe he won't want to reopen any wounds," Mr. Nishnic said.



John Demjanjuk.

In Cleveland, U.S. District Judge Frank Battisti is considering a Justice Department request to reaffirm a 1984 deportation order, on the grounds Mr. Demjanjuk lied about his past on his immigration papers.

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering whether to hear the government's appeal of a ruling that the Justice Department committed fraud by withholding key evidence from Mr. Demjanjuk's defence.

Justice Department spokesman John Russell said Thursday there had been no new developments in the case. However, the government is not likely to drop the matter, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran announces flights to disputed islands

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran on Monday announced the start of scheduled flights to Abu Musa, one of three disputed islands in the southern Gulf, state-run Iranian radio reported. State-owned Asman Airlines announced that flights to the island, which is also claimed by the United Arab Emirates, will run on Sundays and Tuesdays. The first flight between the port of Bandar Abbas and Abu Musa took place Sunday, according to the broadcast. Iran seized Abu Musa, Greater Tumb and Lesser Tumb in 1971 as Britain wound up its colonial rule in the region. The islands are strategically located on the edge of the Strait of Hormuz, through which much of the world's oil passes as the only gateway to the Gulf. Tehran later agreed to share sovereignty over Abu Musa, the largest of the islands, with Sharjah, one of seven emirates federated in the UAE. But two years ago, Iran proclaimed itself the sole owner of the island, rekindling the dispute. Tehran in recent days has adopted a tougher line on the islands following a Sept. 18 communique by foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) urging Iran to allow the World Court to settle the territorial dispute.

Iran gives dam project to guards

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps signed a 1.2 trillion rial (\$686 million) contract on Monday to build a big dam in southwestern Iran, Tehran Radio said. The Karkeh River dam near Andimeshk, one of Iran's biggest development projects, will irrigate 220,000 hectares of land in Khuzestan province and generate 400 megawatts of electricity, the radio said. President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who attended the signing ceremony at the energy ministry in Tehran, said the project was a great honour for the Revolutionary Guards Corps, which grew as a fighting force in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and is estimated by Western experts to number 120,000. "Designing and implementing such projects in Iran seemed far-fetched only a few years ago... but now we can build them with internal resources at a much lower cost than offered by foreign contractors," the radio quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying. Iran has diverted part of the engineering resources of both the Revolutionary Guards Corps and the regular army to civilian projects since a U.N.-brokered ceasefire ended the war with Iraq.

Kazakh president urges close Saudi ties

JEDDAH (AFP) — Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev called for closer ties with Saudi Arabia and encouraged businessmen to invest in Kazakhstan during meetings with Saudi officials here. Mr. Nazarbayev, who arrived in Jeddah on the Red Sea late Sunday for a three-day visit, discussed the prospects for future cooperation and the situation in the former Soviet republics with King Fahd. The leaders also considered the possibility of signing a friendship and cooperation treaty between their two countries. Mr. Nazarbayev met Saudi businessmen and encouraged them to invest in the Central Asian Republic, especially in the oil sector, Kazakh officials said. A Saudi bank, Al Baraka, opened a branch in Kazakhstan in 1991. Mr. Nazarbayev also asked for Kazakhstan to be admitted to the Jeddah-based Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), during a meeting with OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Ghabid, diplomats said. Two other former Soviet republics with majority Muslim populations — Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan — joined the OIC last year. The next OIC summit is due to be held in Morocco in December. Dr. Ghabid pledged to ask OIC members to develop close links with Kazakhstan, an OIC statement said.

Sadat's grandson arrested for vandalism

DEVILS LAKE (AP) — The grandson of Anwar Sadat was arrested at a rural North Dakota airport over the weekend for vandalism and fleeing from police. Police were called to the Devils Lake airport Saturday morning because of a problem with an unruly passenger on a Great Lakes Aviation flight. Police say Haytham Al Sadat, 19, apparently cut off his seatbelt with a utility knife during the flight. When the plane landed, Sadat fell to the floor and claimed to be injured. Police say when they confronted Sadat outside the terminal, he ran and threw the knife in a ditch. He was tackled by police and taken into custody. Sadat was released on Saturday afternoon and was scheduled to appear in municipal court in Devils Lake Tuesday. Vandalism and fleeing are both misdemeanors punishable by up to a maximum of 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine. Sadat spent the summer in North Dakota studying business at two banks and an aerospace firm. The grandson of the late Egyptian president lives in Cairo.

Egypt to settle 3 million in Sinai desert

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian government aims to settle three million people within 23 years in the Sinai desert region where only 160,000 people live at present, officials said Monday. The development plan, costing at 75 billion Egyptian pounds (around \$22 billion), is to be adopted soon by the Egyptian cabinet, said Ahmad Radwan, minister of cabinet affairs. Under the programme \$2.4 billion would be spent on promoting tourism in the Sinai peninsula, \$3.7 billion on agriculture and \$3 billion on industry. Some 430,000 jobs would be created by 2017, said Mr. Radwan, quoted by the official daily Al Ahram. The minister said jobs are a high priority in Egypt, where the population stands at 58 million and the annual growth rate is 2.3 per cent. Another \$5.6 billion would be spent on infrastructure to improve communication and transport between the Sinai and the rest of Egypt, Mr. Radwan said. The government began building two years ago the 'Al Salam Canal, which will stretch from the Nile across the north of the Sinai peninsula parallel to the Mediterranean. The huge irrigation project will help to develop agriculture in the region.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Tao Tao
17:30 N.B.A. sport
18:45 News in French
19:45 Montague Mathematiques
19:50 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
21:10 The Nature of Things
22:00 News in English
22:29 The Nanny
22:59 Poldark

PRAYER TIMES

04:45 Fajr
05:12 (Sunrise) Duha
11:27 Dhur
14:45 'Asr
17:31 Maghreb
18:49 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swifeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
623745
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresacra Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel.
628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
77261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel.
625256.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
624328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman
Tel. 812295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers particularly in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and easterly calm.

Min./Max. temp. 17/28
Amman 23/26
Desert 19/30
Jordan Valley 22/25
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29 Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent. Aqaba 25 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Halasa 819220
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 785525
Dr. Khalid M'addi 743500
Dr. Jamal Jbarah 847351
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 783536
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoq pharmacy 626672
Al Selam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 648945
Shamsi pharmacy 631660
Nairoq pharmacy 626672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Fayez Qadi 248743
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Halasch 982799
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence: Immediate

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Ann
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 66176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 7871H
Complaints 623101
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Oversas Calls 010239
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RU Flight Information 06-3320
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-3320

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:00 Jeddah (RJ)
08:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 Larnaca (RJ)
09:25 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
15:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:30 Madrid (RJ)
16:35 London (RJ)
17:25 Istanbul (RJ)
17:30 Paris, Geneva (RJ)
18:10 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
18:30 Brussels, Rome (RJ)
23:40 Beirut (RJ)
08:20 Cairo (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
16:25 Larnaca (CY)
18:30 Yama (TY)
19:30 Jeddah (SV)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Aqaba (RJ)
10:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
10:25 Berlin, London (RJ)
11:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:40 Istanbul (RJ)
18:10 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
19:30 Colombo (RJ)
19:35 Beirut (RJ)
19:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:00 Riyadh (RJ)
20:10 New Delhi (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45 Sanaa (RJ)
01:45 Aden (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:30 Beirut, Paris (AF)
08:15 Larnaca (CY)
11:30 Yama (TY)
12:00 Jeddah (SV)
12:10 Rome (AZ)
13:00 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Khartoum (SD)
15:15 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
15:20 Algiers, Sharjah (AH)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 2:30 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 2:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Up/Down price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 110/50
Carrot 260/180
Cauliflower 240/160
Cucumbers (large) 120/80
Cucumbers (small) 280/180
Eggplant 280/180
Garlic 300/200
Grapes 900/700
Grapes (Hilwani) 850/500
Onion 450/280
Lemon 140/80
Marrow (large) 140/80
Marrow (small) 140/80
Mulukhiyah 340/240
Onion (dry) 320/200
Onion (green) 320/200
Pepper (hot) 320/200
Pepper (sweet) 280/180
Potato 300/200
Pomegranate 320/220
Spinach 300/200
Tomato 130/70
String beans 750/650
Watermelon 300/100



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday honours Ministry of Education's Charity Box students who participated in the Programme (Photo by George Crystal)

Queen honours civic-minded students

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday honoured students participating in the Charity Box Programme, organised by the Charitable Plaster Fund in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, according to a Royal Court statement.

The fund, a member of the Executive Council of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), encourages students to contribute to helping the more needy sectors of the community by providing charity boxes to schools throughout Jordan to which students provide

donations during the school year.

The funds raised are distributed to outstanding underprivileged students to enable them to continue their education at schools and universities in Jordan.

The fund provides loans to students to continue their education at the Kingdom's universities and community colleges. The recipients repay the loans after graduation.

Over the last four years, more than JD 1,400,000 were raised, benefitting 1,300 students, the statement said.

Queen Noor, who is

committed to providing Jordanian students with access to quality education to fulfill their potential, also distributed certificates to outstanding students from throughout the country.

The event included performances of national songs and folkloric dances by students.

The Queen was received by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sqour, President of the University of Jordan Fawzi Gharabeh, and Secretary General of GUVS Abdullah Khatib and members of the executive council of GUVS.

Jordan, Egypt agree to implement 1986 bilateral tourism agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Tuesday said they plan to take measures to implement a bilateral agreement on tourism signed in 1986 and set up a joint committee to work out an executive programme for the agreement.

The decision came at a meeting between visiting Egyptian Tourism Minister Mamdouh Biltaji and his Jordanian counterpart Mohammad Adwan attended by delegations from both sides. Welcoming the Egyptian delegation Dr. Adwan underlined the two countries' coordination in tourism and other affairs for mutual benefit noting that tourism could be the prime industry for the two countries in the coming peace era.

Referring to Egypt's vast experience in tourism, Dr. Adwan said Jordan hopes to launch close cooperation with Egypt to stimulate the industry through the private sector in both countries, adding that the two neighbours have many things in common such as their cultural background and a similarity in the environment.

Dr. Biltaji told his host that the Egyptian government was keen on cooperating with other Arab states in tourism affairs and in promoting inter-Arab and inter-Islamic tourism.

The two ministers stressed their determination to work out programmes to promote tourist cooperation through concerted informational plans to market the two countries abroad and to launch related joint ventures.

They also said they intended to encourage their national airlines to operate flights between Aqaba and



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday receives Egyptian Minister of Tourism Mamdouh Biltaji (second right) who is here on a visit to discuss bilateral cooperation. Also attending the meeting were Minis-

ter of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan and Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Wajih Hamdi (Petra photo)

Sinai and southern Egypt and to organise training courses for personnel in tourism affairs and exchange other expertise in this area.

The two sides agreed on organising a workshop to coordinate the work of the tourism sectors in both countries and discussed regional cooperation.

According to Dr. Biltaji, Egypt considers its touristic plans as complementing those of Jordan and not competing with them, and there-

fore he said the two countries should work towards tourism integration.

Dr. Adwan, who welcomed Dr. Biltaji at the airport, said the visit was of special significance in view of the current developments in the Middle East.

But in reply to a question, he said it was premature for Jordan to sign an Eastern Mediterranean agreement on tourism involving Israel, Egypt and Turkey. He said Jordan would have to careful-

ly study the agreement and wait for the opportune moment after progress has been achieved in the Middle East peace talks.

After the meetings, Drs. Biltaji and Adwan were received by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali who underlined Jordan's intent to cooperate with Egypt in tourism and other fields.

The two sides expressed a desire to exchange expertise with a view to developing the tourism industry in both

countries. After the meeting with Dr. Majali, the Egyptian minister described the talks as excellent, adding that the Jordanian officials briefed him on the contacts Jordan held lately with Israel in the field of tourism.

Dr. Adwan said that the talks were very useful as they led to the formation of an expert group to stimulate bilateral cooperation and an agreement on future coordination in regional tourism.

EU aid to benefit water sector

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's water sector, one of the key sectors that are undergoing major reforms, is expected to benefit considerably from a recent agreement signed by the European Union (EU) covering 11 million European currency units (ECUs), or about \$15 million in assistance.

Projects covered under the assistance "has a particular relevance at a time of water shortages in Jordan," said a monthly newsletter of the Delegation of Commission of the European Communities in Jordan, the executive arm of the European Union.

It noted that the project involves "not only the rehabilitation and extension of water supply systems in Karak, Tafila and Shobak, but also the provision of distribution systems from smaller sewage treatment plants for the reuse of treated waste water in the southern and northern regions."

A third part of the project provides for training and advice on the management and operation of all

sewage treatment plants in the Kingdom.

A EU-financed study — "Review of Water Resources, Development and Use in Jordan" — identified the focus of the projects and recommended that grant funds should be used for "smaller projects outside Jordan's bigger urban areas."

"The new agreement continues a long-standing commission policy of supporting developments in key sectors of the Jordanian economy," said the newsletter.

The project will bring multiple benefits in improving the water supply of a number of towns, protecting the environment through the prevention of discharge of sewage into the groundwater and providing treated water for irrigation and thus saving fresh water for other vital uses.

The reuse of urban wastewater for irrigation is also the subject of a proposed Med-Media project which would bring together experts from France, Jordan and Syria but could have benefits for all Mediterranean countries now facing the need to maximise their water supplies.

The objectives of the project is to investigate the possible reuse of urban wastewater for agricultural production in the Mediterranean region.

The urban wastewater of Amman and Damascus will be studied to define its quality and to assess its impact on the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soils, the health risks encountered when using it, and its effect on the growth, development and production of ornamental and industrial crops.

A European Investment Bank (EIB) supported project is also getting underway to rehabilitate the water supply network in Jordan's fourth largest city, Salt. The EIB is providing an ECU 12 million loan to the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) for a project to renovate the town's water distribution and sewerage networks which date from the 1940s but are now having to serve a rapidly expanding population.

A total of ECU 21.3 million has now been committed to the water and environment sector in Jordan under the fourth EC-Jordan Financial protocol.

Eye specialists open meeting on latest advances

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than 200 eye specialists from Jordan and Arab and foreign nations Tuesday opened a conference at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman to review working papers and discuss matters related to the latest advances in medical eye treatments, according to Bakri Bitar, member of the Jordanian Ophthalmological Society (JOS) which organised the meeting.

He told the Jordan Times that the three-day conference will take up the subjects of glaucoma, lense implants, cornea surgery, diabetes and changes in the retina among others, and will review a total of 25 working papers.

The conference, the society's third, was opened by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein.

Dr. Fathi Adas, head of the conference's scientific committee, said the society spends great efforts to obtain

corneas locally and from abroad to meet the need of a growing list of patients awaiting cornea transplant surgery.

According to Dr. Bitar, at least 500 cornea transplants were so far conducted in Jordan this year at private and public hospitals.

He said such operations are 95 per cent successful and there are now thousands of cornea recipients with healthy sight.

Dr. Bitar said that more than 90 per cent of the corneas are donated from citizens in Jordan, and each imported cornea costs at least \$600, though some are donated by foreign hospitals.

He added that Jordanian hospitals constantly admit patients for eye surgery from Syria, Bahrain and other Gulf states.

The JOS has organised an exhibition of medical equipment on the sidelines of the conference, of which Arab and foreign firms are displaying their products.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday deputises for His Majesty King Hussein at the Jordan Ophthalmological Society's conference (Petra photo)



TO THE RESCUE: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Tuesday carries out a fire drill and rescue exercise at Queen Alia International Airport. Taking part in the exercise were CAA, Ministry of Health, Royal Medical Services, Security and Protection Unit,

Royal Airforce, Royal Jordanian and the University of Jordan Hospital staff. The exercise aims to assess the efficiency of the various organisations concerned with dealing with emergency situations (Petra photo)

PROMOTING ACADEMIC FREEDOMS

Ali Umleil, secretary general of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) Tuesday opens a two-day symposium on academic freedoms at Arab universities attended by intellectuals and scholars from several Arab universities. Dr. Umleil said advocates of academic freedoms were looking for supporting provisions in international charters and covenants on human rights to guarantee the application of such liberties. Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) Education Bureau for Arab States Abdul Qader Atrash said academic freedoms received special attention from UNESCO since 1966, when an international governmental conference, called for by UNESCO adopted a recommendation on conditions of teachers, drafted by UNESCO in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The symposium is organised by ATF in cooperation with UNESCO and Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES).



tion (ILO). The symposium is organised by ATF in cooperation with UNESCO and Friedrich Ebert Found-

ation. Taking part in the symposium are scholars and intellectuals from Arab universities in Jordan.

Syria, Tunisia, Morocco, Yemen, and the Gulf states (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAY
★ Play in Arabic entitled "The Body Test/the Existence" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS
★ Exhibition of digital (computer) art by Dr. Shamil Kubba, Omar Shahwan, and Karam Annab at Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Saqra Street (Tel. 644451).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Dia Azzawi at Ab'ad Art Gallery (Tel. 862105).
★ Exhibition of paintings entitled "Donation" by Laila Bustami at the Royal Cultural Centre.
★ Exhibition of works by Farouq Zadeh entitled "Faces, Places, and Ideas" at Goethe-Institut (Tel. 641993).
★ Painting exhibition entitled "The Other Sides of Mastery" by Ibrahim Shalabi at the Galleria Jordan, Mecca

Street (Tel. 816755).
★ Exhibition of paintings by Sahib Ahmad at the Phoenix Art Gallery (Tel. 695291).
★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boullata entitled "Duets, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweideh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Exhibition by artist Nadim Muhsin at the French Cultural Centre.
★ Exhibition of stained glass and icons by Ollia Rseiso at The Gallery at the Hotel Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. except on Friday) (Tel. 641361).
★ "The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.

Rwandan Hutu refugees stream back into Zaire

GOMA, Zaire (AFP) — Hutu refugees are streaming back from Rwanda into Zaire, fleeing reported revenge killings by Tutsi-led government forces, U.N. refugee officials said Tuesday.

In Geneva Tuesday, a spokesman for the U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said he had ordered a full enquiry into the UNHCR claims.

Dr. Ghali had ordered U.N. officials to say no more on the subject until the inquiry had been carried out, the spokesman said.

However, in Zaire, Lyn-dall Sachs, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said almost twice as many people are crossing back into Zaire each day as are returning to their former homes in Rwanda.

The claims are bound to revive the row between the UNHCR and the Rwandan government which accused the agency Monday of leading a "campaign" against the Tutsi-led administration in order to preserve its own jobs.

The government says attacks are occurring but they are happening mostly in the southwest sector of Rwanda where the former government's forces and Hutu-supremacists are still attacking Tutsi forces.

In Kigali, a U.N. spokesman seemed to back up this version of events, saying that the Rwandan government forces had themselves come under attack in the southeast area Sunday.

Three soldiers were injured in the attack on a car they were travelling in, Major Jean-Guy Plante said.

Ms. Sachs said the latest figures from seven monitoring points along the border near Goma in eastern Zaire, show that around 300 refugees a day are returning to Zaire.

The UNHCR official said "justice" was being meted out by the victorious Tutsis against returning Hutus in revenge for massacres during the civil war earlier this year.

The UNHCR said last week that returnees — mainly Hutus — were being murdered on a large scale.

Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu, a moderate Hutu and member of the mainly Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), said Monday the government "categorically" denied the UNHCR reports.

The government had counted under 100 isolated incidents of reprisals in Rwanda by its forces which were all "regrettable" but now "under control." Some 60 to 70 people had been arrested, he said.

He said the UNHCR was taking a "negative role" and acting as if it wants to "justi-

fy" an offensive which he expects the Hutu militia, the Interhamwe, and former government soldiers to launch shortly.

He also accused the U.N. body of cooperating with the "criminals" who had led the massacres in Rwanda from April to July by feeding them in the refugee camps in Zaire and of seeking to preserve its own role by dissuading Rwandan refugees from returning to Rwanda from the surrounding countries.

Ms. Sachs denied the charge Tuesday.

"We're believers in the whole concept of freedom of movement," she said.

"We cannot stop people going back — we're not prison guards."

"What we can do is give them the best information available on conditions where they are going to and leave it up to them to take the decision on whether or not they still wish to return."

Some 800,000 Rwandans are in huge camps around this Zairean border town, up to 30,000 of them former soldiers and militiamen of the defeated Rwandan army.

The Kigali government has promised safe return for the vast majority of refugees, saying it wants to bring to justice only the leaders of the genocide against the Tutsi people.

But the soldiers are reported to be intimidating civilians into refusing to return, and to be plotting a new offensive in early October to retake Rwanda.

RPF information officer Major Wilson Rutayisire said Friday the government was going to launch a "large offensive" against the Hutu militia which was still committing atrocities in the south-east sector.

Maj. Plante said he had no comment on the UNHCR allegations of atrocities committed by the RPF and said the U.N. mission in Rwanda was awaiting the result of a report by U.N. human rights experts.

The U.N. meanwhile began as scheduled its Operation Homebound to bring Hutu refugees in south-east Rwanda back to their homes elsewhere in Rwanda.

Hundreds of U.N. trucks will take an estimated 4,000 people daily from the southwest, U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) spokesman Pierre Melu said.

It was not clear if they would return to their homes or to new camps set up to ease overcrowding.

"We press on with plans," said U.N. military spokesman Maj. Plante, adding it was the biggest operation to transfer displaced within Rwanda since millions of people were uprooted by three months of civil war and massacres from April to July.

IFP sues ANC, Mandela over March killings

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) Tuesday sued South African President Nelson Mandela over the shooting dead outside ANC headquarters in March of eight Inkatha members.

Themba Khoza, political director and Transvaal chief told a press conference that the summons served against Mr. Mandela said the ANC leader had interfered with the police investigation by preventing a search of the ANC Headquarters immediately after the killings.

Writs had also gone out against Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, ANC General Secretary Cyril Ramaphosa and Johannesburg area police Commissioner Koos Calitz, the official said.

An IFP press statement said Mr. Mufamadi, although not in office at the time, was cited because, "as a senior member of the ANC, (he) admitted in public some weeks ago that the ANC fired the first shots and (he) did not even attempt to suggest that there was any reason to do so."

Mr. Khoza said the IFP, which is led by Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthezi, would seek eight million rand (\$2.3 million) in damages from the ANC officials, the ANC as an organisation and the South African Police Force.

Eight IFP members were shot dead outside the ANC's headquarters on March 28

demonstration in central Johannesburg.

The Johannesburg demonstration turned into a bloodbath in which 53 people were killed and 300 injured in one of the worst days of pre-election violence here.

The killings helped prompt the proclamation of emergency rule three days later in KwaZulu-Natal province, the IFP stronghold.

An IFP lawyer, at Van Wyk, said the legal action came within six-month statute of limitations for actions suing police officials, including Mr. Mufamadi and Mr. Calitz.

He said Mr. Mandela and the other defendants have 20 days to officially state whether they will defend their actions.

Two sets of summonses were served on the defendants.

The first cites as plaintiff Silwayiphi Alfred Mapanga, an IFP member in his twenties whose wounds from the shootout left him a paraplegic.

The second cites Puthile Zombi Dlamini, the widow of one of the victims, once in her personal capacity and once as mother and legal guardian of six children aged between six and 16.

The rift between Inkatha and the ANC caused thousands of deaths in the run up to South Africa's April elections.

Political violence in the country has fallen sharply since the election though tension in KwaZulu-Natal has



Gerry Adams (left), leader of the Sinn Féin, the legal, political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), presents civil rights leader Rosa Parks with a Waterford crystal bowl in recognition for the inspiration to him and to the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland, at Detroit's City County Building (AFP photo)

Adams downplays remarks on future IRA leadership

LONDON (AFP) — Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams, in an interview broadcast here Tuesday, downplayed a comment he made to a U.S. newspaper suggesting a future IRA leadership might revert to violence in the absence of progress towards peace.

The leader of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political branch, on a nine-city U.S. tour, was quoted by the Boston Globe as saying a prolonged stagnation in the peace process could reactivate Ireland's cyclical progression of paramilitary forces.

"None of us can say two or three years up the road that if the causes of conflict aren't resolved, that another IRA leadership won't come along, because this has always happened," Mr. Adams told the paper.

A leading Protestant unionist politician jumped on the comment as proof that the IRA ceasefire, in effect since Sept. 1, could not be counted on as permanent.

"Mr. Adams' candour has not told us anything we didn't know already," said Ulster Unionist MP David Trimble.

"The government was wise to move forward cautiously, and should insist that the IRA's military machine was dismantled and its weapons surrendered before Sinn Féin could move into the political process," Mr. Trimble told the BBC.

The Sinn Féin leader told the BBC his remarks to the Boston Globe had been made in hypothetical terms and that he did not believe the peace process would fail.

"I refuse to get into the whole hypothetical situation and what may happen in the worst case scenario," he said.

"The best case scenario is we now have a unique opportunity for peace which (British Prime Minister John) Major should seize and move the situation forward."

"The peace process is going to work," said Mr. Adams. "The peace process is under no threat from any element in the broad Republican family — no threat, no

risk and no danger."

Mr. Major, unlike his Irish counterpart Albert Reynolds, has not yet recognised the IRA ceasefire as permanent, a watershed that would start the clock on a three-month waiting period to bring Sinn Féin into peace talks.

"Nothing has really changed until there is a renunciation of violence and a commitment to exclusively peaceful methods," said Mr. Trimble.

"The real danger is not a new leadership coming along in a couple of years' time, the real danger is the present leadership might decide that the peace policy is not working, discard Mr. Adams and proceed," he said.

Mr. Adams met here Monday with Rosa Parks, the black civil rights pioneer, and thanked her for inspiring the desire for civil rights in his homeland.

"As a teenager in Belfast, we took succor from the people in this country who struggled for civil rights," he said in Detroit, his second stop on a nine-city U.S. tour seeking support for the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Adams recalled the black U.S. civil rights battles in the 1960s and the voice of the Rev. Martin Luther King, "brought into our homes through the medium of television."

He said Ms. Parks' refusal to give up a bus seat to a white man in 1955 "sent a message of how one person's action can start a whole mass movement."

Mr. Adams gave 81-year-old Ms. Parks, who was attacked in her home four weeks ago, a Waterford crystal bowl.

During a visit to Boston earlier Monday, Mr. Adams told the Boston Herald newspaper: "I want to see the gun taken permanently out of Irish politics."

"Who's interested in temporary? We live there," added the Sinn Féin leader, who arrived in Boston Saturday on the first leg of a two-week visit to the United States.

Chechen government, rebels clash in heavy fighting

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Heavy fighting broke out Tuesday between forces of Chechnya's Muslim secessionist government and rebels loyal to Moscow near the opposition headquarters of Znamenskoe, a rebel spokesman said.

The fighting was near the village of Kirovo, 20 kilometres from Znamenskoe, the opposition spokesman, Russian Martagov, told AFP.

Ten days ago the rebels, who admit to receiving funding from Moscow, lost one of the heaviest battles in six months of intermittent fighting in Chechnya.

The republic is the only one of Russia's 89 so-called "subjects" to secede from the Russian Federation and Moscow sees the attempt as setting a dangerous example in the turbulent Caucasus region.

Mr. Martagov said Tuesday night his side had lost an

armoured vehicles and artillery. He said the fighting had been heavy and that four rebel soldiers were wounded, but gave no further details.

The Chechen deputy security minister, Mud Ali Tahybeev, would only confirm that government forces had launched a military operation against the opposition.

Interfax reported that 500 Chechen government soldiers backed by 10 tanks moved in two columns against the rebel headquarters.

Mr. Martagov was quoted as saying that one column of government troops had been stopped by rebel soldiers at the village of Kalauas.

Skirmishes between the opposition, headquarters 60 kilometres northwest of the capital Grozny in Znamenskoe, and forces loyal to President Dzhokhar Dudayev have broken out

Bosnia to ask for delay in lifting U.N. arms embargo

SARAJEVO (R) — The Bosnian government, scaling back earlier demands, was ready Tuesday to support a delay in lifting the arms embargo as their Bosnian Serb foes kept up pressure on U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Bosnia's U.N. ambassador, Muhammad Sacirbey, said his Muslim-led government would ask the U.N. Security Council to support the lifting of the arms ban at a future date instead of taking immediate action.

"We are asking for lifting of the arms embargo to go ahead as planned but the practical application of that to be deferred to four to six months," Mr. Sacirbey told reporters late Monday.

The proposal was aimed at patching up differences over the issue between Washington and its European allies, which have threatened to withdraw their peacekeeping troops from former Yugoslavia if arms were allowed to flow freely to the Muslims.

In Sarajevo, meanwhile, U.N. spokesmen reported that Bosnian Serb forces continued to block U.N. aid convoys and peacekeeping operations in retaliation for a NATO air raid last week and tougher sanctions imposed by the United Nations.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic was expected to explain why his government wanted a six-month delay in removing the arms embargo in an address Tuesday to the U.N. General Assembly.

The U.S. Congress had instructed President Bill Clinton to push the Security Council to lift the embargo if the Bosnian Serbs fail to accept an international peace plan by Oct. 15.

"We require that nations commit themselves for the future in the event that Bosnian Serbs have not accepted the peace agreement," Mr. Sacirbey said. "It would be a legal lifting but a practical deferral."

A deal would be just as



Alija Izetbegovic (left), the Bosnian president, listens to U.S. President Bill Clinton deliver his speech to the 49th annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Seated next to Mr. Izetbegovic is Muhammad Sacirbey, Bosnia-Herzegovina's ambassador to the U.N. (AFP photo)

important to Washington as to the Muslims, fearing a U.N. pullout would result in the probable loss of eastern enclaves and collapse of aid efforts as the winter set in.

Washington, increasingly concerned about the risks of lifting the embargo and the frayed ties the issue has created with Britain, France and Russia, said it was discussing a compromise that would postpone lifting the embargo.

But the United States wanted the United Nations to take a tougher stance in enforcing U.N. heavy weapons exclusion zones around Sarajevo and other Muslim enclaves.

In a speech to the U.N. General Assembly Monday, Mr. Clinton said the Bosnian capital Sarajevo "once again faces the prospect of strangulation" by besieging Bosnian Serb forces and urged the United Nations to show a new resolve to save it.

He said "NATO stands ready to act" as it did last Thursday when NATO jets destroyed a Bosnian Serb tank west of Sarajevo in a punitive raid that followed

Serb attacks on peacekeepers.

U.N. officials suspended relief convoys in Serb-held parts of Bosnia after Serbs warned their safety could not be guaranteed, Peter Kessler of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said Monday.

Serb forces have brought U.N. operations to a standstill following the air raid and one U.N. source described relations between Serbs and the United Nations as being "at their worst."

The Serbs blocked overland supply routes to the city and forced the United Nations to suspend its airlift to Sarajevo after a Bosnian Serb officer warned that his men would fire on any aircraft using the city's main air gateway.

The NATO bombing infuriated the Bosnian Serbs and their leader Radovan Karadzic told Reuters Monday: "If there are going to be more air strikes, then there is going to be war between us and the international community. We are cornered and we will fight as we fought the

Austro-Hungarian empire and Hitler."

"We will fight the United Nations if it turns against us. If NATO comes here we will fight NATO," he said.

But Mr. Karadzic has agreed to ease a 12-day utility blockade of Sarajevo, allowing gas supplies to return falteringly to parts of the city.

A U.N.-brokered agreement called for repair teams to be allowed access to damaged electricity pylons around the city, while power would be restored to Serb-held areas in Bosnia.

In Belgrade, international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg held talks Tuesday with the head of an international mission sent to check the efficacy of Belgrade's military blockade against the Bosnian Serbs. They also planned to meet Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic.

The Security Council has voted to relax U.N. sanctions on rump Yugoslavia once the monitoring mission delivers a report verifying that Belgrade has cut military aid to Bosnian Serbs.

U.S.: 'No progress' in N. Korea nuclear talks

GENEVA (R) — The United States said there had been "no progress" in a further bid Tuesday to reach accord with North Korea on reshaping Pyongyang's nuclear programme to ensure it cannot produce weaponry.

The statement was issued after a four-and-a-half hour meeting between U.S. Ambassador-at-large Robert Gallucci and North Korea's First Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju aimed at trying to overcome major differences on the issue.

"We can report no progress," the statement declared, but it said there would be another Gallucci-Kang meeting Wednesday. A North Korean official said he had no immediate comment.

The two men had also met for six hours and a working lunch Monday trying to hammer out a joint accord formalising earlier outline agreement on replacing North Korea's graphite reactors with a light-water version which would produce much less of the plutonium needed to make nuclear arms.

U.S. and South Korean intelligence officials say they suspect the North may have a weapons programme. Pyongyang has fed these fears by refusing to open two suspect sites to international inspection.

The current round of talks began last Friday, and U.S. officials had indicated they hoped it would be completed by Wednesday at the latest.

Pyeongyang has said it might pull out if U.S. naval exercises off its coast are not halted.

Meanwhile a defector said Tuesday North Korea successfully tested three nuclear bombs in Russia and the Ukraine in 1992.

The defector, identified as 23-year-old Lee Chung-Kuk, also said he personally witnessed the North Korean military testing detonators for the bombs in October of 1993 near the Stalinist state's Yongbyon nuclear complex.

There was no independent confirmation of the claims.

The United States believes North Korea may have manufactured one or two bombs, but late North Korean President Kim Il-Sung

said before his death on July 8 that the North had no bombs and added it had no place to test them.

Mr. Lee told the South Korean MBC Television that he had worked as a staff sergeant at a nuclear warfare unit under the direct control of the North Korean Defence Ministry, and that he had defected to the South in March of this year.

He said he had participated in tests in which his unit assisted scientists and had access to classified information, and that he planned to publish a book in Japan entitled "Kim Jong-Il's nuclear bombs and military." Kim Jong-Il, 52, is Kim Il-Sung's son and designated successor.



Parisians crowd the Champs Elysees avenue. The famous French avenue returned to its former glory after a two-year 240 million francs (\$44 million) face-lift (AFP photo)

Paris restores the chic of Champs-Elysees

PARIS (R) — Paris's best-known avenue, the Champs-Elysees, showed off a smart new look Monday in a costly attempt to restore its image as the most glamorous walkway in the capital of chic.

Until several decades ago, the artery born in 1670 was a promenade for the cream of Paris society, the preserve of fashion houses, jewellers and expensive restaurants.

Over recent years it had become an anonymous mass of cinema, car show-rooms and fast-food outlets, plagued by muggers.

The three-year, 240-million franc (\$45 million)

Narrow alleys on either side of the avenue which provided parking space have been sacrificed for wider pavements which now make up a wide promenade more than a kilometre long.

The pavements are now tastefully graduated in shades of granite ranging from the grey of central France to the blue of Brittany.

The new Champs-Elysees boasts 227 more plane trees, 51 benches in tropical wood and artfully designed bus shelters. Newspaper kiosks and street lamps in the style of the turn of the century hark back to the avenue's

stainless steel, have also sprung up. They are not expected to speed up traffic on the ever-clogged avenue.

The revamp of the street which likes to call itself "the world's most beautiful avenue" has restored the Champs-Elysees to its former glory, according to conservative Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac.

"This avenue has recovered all its prestige, the magical character which it had in the sub-conscious of the French and of foreigners," Mr. Chirac told a news conference before throwing a switch turning on

chains and growing insecurity. We wanted to give the Champs Elysees the luster of old," he said.

The original plan for Monday's inauguration had been for Mr. Chirac to cut a gigantic red ribbon in a ceremony complete with stirring music from a band.

But his aides dropped the idea, fearing it might seem too much like pre-campaign electioneering by the Gaullist leader widely seen as a probable candidate for next year's presidential elections.

Instead, he threw a switch for 1,000 emerald green floodlights whose intensi-

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Another hurdle on way

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin's surprise decision to construct yet another Jewish settlement in the West Bank is the worst message that he could send to the Arab side. The PLO leadership has been hard pressed by the Palestinian constituency to explain and justify its agreement with Israel last year since it seemed to offer them only a truncated territory with truncated authority and jurisdiction that made the whole deal somewhat laughable. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has often dismissed this negative interpretation although he admitted that he was forced into making a bad deal with Israel.

Announcing now that Alfei Menashe settlement would soon take root three kilometres within the West Bank is not exactly the kind of assurance that the Palestinian people were hoping for against the backdrop of persistent suspicion about the real Israeli intentions. Even the Israeli explanation that the new settlement would be nothing more than a "seam" housing plan cannot be expected to allay the fears and anxieties of the Palestinians. Clearly what Israel seeks to do now is to beef up its Jewish presence all along the West Bank facing densely populated areas in central Israel. Perhaps Rabin seeks this kind of road to allay the concerns of his military about the "indefensibility" of Israel's narrow coastal strip.

But Rabin cannot sue for peace with his neighbours and at the same time make military postulations that war is just around the corner. Besides, whatever security arrangements that Israel may need it should not be at the cost of the Arab parties. Is Rabin reversing an earlier decision to freeze the construction of about 10,000 housing units as a condition for securing U.S. loan guarantees totaling \$10 billion by going ahead with his latest plan to build the new colony? This is where Washington has to step in since it was the party that succeeded in convincing the Israeli government in the first place on its previous commitment to proceed with its plan for the construction of more and more housing units on Arab lands. It is not too late for the Israeli government to reverse itself on an explosive issue like this.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Tuesday described as political bankruptcy a call by a Cairo daily for an invasion of Sudan in a bid to topple the Khartoum regime. Tareq Masarweh said that Akhbar Al Youm, which is the organ of the government appointed Shura Council, should realise that Sudan is a sovereign state and only its own people have the right to change the nature of the government ruling the country. Referring to Western accusations that Sudan has been encouraging terrorism, the writer said not a single penny found in Egypt was proved to have come from Khartoum and not a single piece of weaponry has originated in Sudan or even Iran, which is also accused by the West of harbouring terrorists and operating terror acts in other countries. Coming from a government-controlled newspaper, the call on Cairo to invade Sudan is quite dangerous as it threatens the stability in the North African region, said the writer. He said that what has been going on in Egypt was not imported from Sudan or Iran. The unrest there reflects the internal situation in Egypt which is a result of the country's economic and other policies. Directing public attention towards a common enemy abroad is a tactic which said the writer does not always serve its purpose and divert attention from the real life facing the nation.

SAWT AL Shabab daily said that the dispute over the Gulf islands that have been occupied by Iran in the Arabian Gulf should be referred to the international Court of Justice in The Hague. Criticising Iran for threatening to resort to the use of force to keep the islands under its own control, the paper said this is totally unacceptable, especially as Iran had occupied the three islands by force and continues to refuse any dialogue with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over their future. The UAE's right to the islands is crystal clear as provided for in the international agreements and it is regrettable that Tehran is refusing to discuss the matter with its neighbour, added the daily. Occupying part of other country's territory is an act of war, which Iran could not have resorted to had the Arab World been more united, it said.

Washington Watch

Arab Americans: responding to the challenges of the '94 elections

By Dr. James Zogby

SEPTEMBER'S PRIMARY elections launched two more Arab-Americans into national political prominence.

In the state of Arizona, Eddie Basha, a populist Arab-American Democrat, scored a major upset victory in becoming his party's nominee in the race for that state's Governor. Mr. Basha is the owner of a chain of 67 supermarkets, which have made him a popular one statewide. He campaigned hard as a moderate business-oriented Democrat and is well-positioned to win the final election in November. An Arizona poll conducted last week shows Basha with a 6 per cent lead over his Republican opponent, incumbent Governor Fife Symington.

Mr. Basha is proud of his Arab ancestry. He both actively sought and received the support of Arab-Americans across the U.S. In his campaign literature, Mr. Basha describes the core values he learned from his heritage and how they have been applied in his business and professional life.

"My father taught me that the community is not something a business only takes from, but rather a partner... The community gives us livelihood. And, for its part, the business gives back to the community in service, in caring and in commitment to community growth and prosperity."

Mr. Basha is being heralded by the National Democratic Party as one of its most promising candidates. In an election year where the Democrats are concerned about their overall standing in the country, Mr. Basha stands out that much more. He will be hosted by President Bill Clinton at the White House next month.

Across the continent in Connecticut, 34-year-old Joseph Ganim won the right to be on the November ballot in that state as the Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Ganim, twice elected as Mayor of Bridgeport (the largest city in Connecticut), is one of the rising stars in the Democratic Party. He won his last election with 80 per cent of the vote, having established his reputation by bringing back the city from the brink of bankruptcy to the solid credit standing it enjoys today.

Mr. Ganim and his family have long been involved in Arab-American community activities.

With the primary election season now complete, Arab-Americans add Mr. Basha and Mr. Ganim to the slate of other Arab-Americans running in the finals in November.

These include Representative Nick Joe Rahall II (West Virginia Democrat), and Representative Pat Danner (Missouri Democrat) who are incumbents running for reelection to the U.S. Congress. And new candidates E. Spencer Abraham, the Republican nominee for State in Michigan, and Ray LaHood of Illinois and Ernie Farhat of California, both Republicans running for the U.S. Congress.

In addition, there are over 40 Arab-Americans running for other state and local office elections in 17 states.

Looking at this impressive state of candidates and the

recent record of Arab-American political activities brings the real progression of the Arab-American agenda into sharper focus.

While some lament the fate of the Arabs and Arab-Americans in the "new world order," the Arab-American mainstream is hard at work staking its claim to power by participating in the political process. In just a two-week period, for example, Arab-Americans in Washington have placed the community's name on the U.S. political map in a series of major political events.

The first of these was the Builders for Peace press conference with Vice President Al Gore. Seven leading Arab-American businessmen were introduced by the vice-president and commended for their early investment in projects in the West Bank and Gaza. Many of these investors are combining their significant personal investments with support from U.S. government agencies to bring new economic opportunity to Palestine. The sum total of all the projects announced by the vice-president will bring \$268 million in U.S. investment and create over 5,000 new Palestinian jobs.

The thrust of the vice-president's remarks was to praise these Arab-Americans for taking risk and putting their economic power to work to support peace.

On the political side, Arab-Americans sponsored a number of significant political forums in September.

On the domestic front, the Arab-American Institute (AAI) featured a major debate in Virginia featuring all the Senate candidates and the congressional candidates in this November's elections. Participants included Senator Charles Robb, and his opponents Oliver North and Marshall Coleman. Members of Congress Jim Moran and Leslie Byrne and their challengers also participated. In addition to debating issue, all of the candidates made strong appeals for Arab-American votes in November.

Since this event occurred the day after U.S. forces landed in Haiti, that issue as well as the candidate's positions on the status of Jerusalem were hotly debated. Because the timing was so good and the participation of the candidates was so impressive, the event received major national news coverage.

Foreign policy issues were the focus of other Arab-American events this past week. Two major forums were hosted, one featuring Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, and the other featuring Information Minister Jawad Anani.

Both events marked a turning point in Arab-American politics in Washington. Amr Musa's appearance, for example, marked the first time that an Arab foreign minister sought out Arab-American sponsorship for a major policy address. In his remarks, Mr. Musa pointedly addressed Arab-American community on the key role it could play in shaping U.S. policy and serving as a bridge between the U.S. and the Arab World.

The only major U.S. event marking the first anniversary of the Sept. 13 signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles was co-sponsored by Arab-Americans and a major American Jewish group. The AAI and Jewish Now event featured Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'ath.

If this were not enough, Arab-Americans also sponsored fundraising events for political candidates during the period. Among them were fundraising events for Spencer Abraham and Ray LaHood (a Basha event is being planned for early next month). The most significant of these fundraisers was co-hosted by administration cabinet members, Secretary Donna Shalala and Najeeb Halaby, for Virginia's incumbent Democratic Senator, Charles Robb.

It is important to note that these events are only those held in Washington this month. Similar political events were taking place during this same time in Ohio, Michigan, California, Illinois and New Jersey — states with strong Arab-American populations.

The community has turned a corner. It is now empowered and fully engaged in the political process. To some extent, the work of the community has become routine. Just five years ago, the mere presence of a major U.S. political leader at an Arab-American event would send shockwaves through the media. In 1990, then-chair of the Democratic National Committee (now Secretary of Commerce) Ron Brown's appearance at an AAI event was the subject of national television and print news stories. Such meetings are now so commonplace that they are no longer, in themselves, newsworthy.

Political exclusion and discrimination in the political process are rapidly becoming an item of our past. Arab-Americans now receive the recognition they deserve. Just this week, for example, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton presided at an awards ceremony sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) at which Arab-American Oud player Simone Shaheen was given the NEA National Heritage award for Excellence. He was the first Arab-American to receive that distinction. In her remarks, the first lady spoke of the contribution that Mr. Shaheen and other ethnic musicians have made in bringing out the rich and diverse culture shared by all Americans.

Arab-Americans now have more opportunities in the U.S. than ever before. The challenge the community faces now is to recognise the new possibilities that an open political process holds for them — and to take advantage of them.

Without forgetting their principled commitments to justice and even-handedness, Arab-Americans can now fully engage the system and shape the political debate over U.S. Middle East policy. They can respond to the challenge posed by Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa: To be full partners in U.S. society, and full partners in the quest for a comprehensive Middle East peace.

Theory meets reality in Clinton's Caribbean

By Ed Valliamy

AMERICA HAS been treated to the remarkable spectacle of the mighty kissing the hands of the meek in exile and of the downright squallid in power in a bid to keep a failing foreign policy doctrine alive.

Following Jimmy Carter's humble entreaties to Haiti's tin-pot bully Raoul Cedras last weekend, the U.S. military establishment lined up to give a 21-gun salute in honour of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the firebrand priest and president-in-exile whom Mr. Cedras deposed. To signs of relief throughout Washington, Mr. Aristide duly thanked the United States for mounting its quiet invasion.

The unconvincing commitment to Mr. Aristide and the administration's wider Haitian project has a deeper rationale, apart from meeting domestic political pressures and heading off mass landings by Haitian boat people. Strange though it may seem, there has actually been an attempted coherence behind Mr. Clinton's foreign policy, into which Haiti fits. It even has a name: "Soft Power."

Soft Power is, above all, the creature of Vice President Al Gore, backed by a handful of State Department intellectuals and some of the Ivy League White House aides. After the fall of Communism, it is an attempt to redraw the map of power, to break away from imperial, crusading rhetoric, and to redefine the role of a superpower when there is no equally matched enemy.

The doctrine aims to change the language of global policy. Rather than defining problems (and solutions) in terms of military conflict, the emphasis shifts to the environment, the population explosion, the fight against AIDS, the management of food production — what Mr. Gore calls a "Global Marshall Plan" in which America and its technological leadership can help forge a common purpose across the planet.

These notions are the international version of what was, at home, labelled the "politics of virtue," a Bushyonesque journey which was to have been led by Hillary Clinton towards an America that combined enterprise capitalism with the values of decency between fellow men.

The politics of virtue



edition of sixties idealism, forged into a political agenda that stressed cures for the ills in American society, rather than the nation's role as the world's policeman. Soft Power is virtue's global wing. It sounds good, and — above all — could be an acceptable mask behind which the newly insular America could hide while going about its own business.

Mr. Clinton's presidential style helped to douse the fire of interventionism and rash decision-making. He packs his meetings with experts and advisers, endlessly seeking more information before making his decision, which is somewhat always influenced by the last person he spoke to. If not quite presidency by committee, this enabled the president's entourage to enjoy power without precedent. The intellectual process was stimulating; the experience of reality was rather different.

For the way the world was changing was not quite as Al Gore and his friends had hoped. As a result, Soft Power ran aground on the rocks of the new world disorder as the Serbs in Bosnia made a mockery of America's cautious caprice, the Somali warlord General Aideed humiliated the U.S. military, and Boris Yeltsin remained stubborn over Russia's meddling in the

defence of the newly independent neighbours. In response, Bill Clinton looked, as he was, clueless.

But Haiti gave Soft Power a last chance. Here was a job in which a superpower could use its strength delicately, as the new doctrine intended. The rhetoric about upholding democracy which had been huffed and puffed so meaninglessly over Bosnia could be revived, this time without any Serbs in the way and without offending Boris Yeltsin. Haiti was a little nut that, threatened with America's military hammer, could earn the president at least one point for exporting democracy into a cruel world.

When Jimmy Carter pulled off his highly conciliatory deal at the eleventh hour, and the first troops arrived without a shot fired, it looked as though Mr. Clinton would at last be able to demonstrate what Soft Power was all about. Military might had been mobilised, and had supposedly achieved its aims without a single casualty. The superpower had shown how it could use its hammer without actually having to crack the nut.

A week later, things are midway along a sliding scale between success, failure and farce. Will the Ton-Ton Macoute and the Haitian police, with whom the Americans are "cooperating" under the Clinton

approach, be any more impressed by Soft Power than Radev Karadzic or Mr. Aideed? Raoul Cedras is still in power — the recipient of extraordinary and sudden compliments from the U.S. authorities — and will stay in Haiti after the return of the rightful president.

That is one price of Soft Power. On the plus side, if Mr. Clinton can get Mr. Aristide restored without waging an urban guerrilla war, he will have rescued the new approach from a premature obsolescence. He will have learned, however, that a president cannot live by Soft Power alone; he has to have both the good intent and the muscle, and the hammer sometimes has to be raised, with a view to actual use.

If force has to be used to restore Mr. Aristide, the virtuosos will have been shown that the world just isn't the way they want it to be. That might be uncomfortable for them, but it would be far worse if the Americans end up cooperating with the Haitian military against a popular revolt in favour of Aristide by doing nothing. That would not only bury the idea of Soft Power, but would reduce the already shabby record of putting it into practice to the level of tragic farce.

The Observer

Tamils still fear India

By Anil Jayasinghe

Agence France Presse

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka — Constant civil strife has turned the clock back in this Tamil heartland, where Tiger guerrillas have kept up anti-Indian rhetoric, fearing another foreign military intervention.

The separatist Tamil Tiger rebels, who run their own administration here, bombard visiting journalists with accounts of death and mayhem unleashed by Indian forces during their 32-month presence ending in March 1990.

Junior members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) told a group of foreign correspondents last week that Indians were seen by minority Tamils as symbols of the atrocities committed by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF).

"In each dead body, we saw the irresponsibility of (former Indian premier) Rajiv Gandhi," an academic here said. He implied that the Tigers may have killed Mr. Gandhi in 1991 in retaliation for his ordering a crackdown against them.

Despite the LTTE's persistent India bashing, an exhibition organised here this week by the Tiger Economic Unit, the TEEDU, displayed alternative power sources adapted from Indian designs to suit the harsh local conditions.

The show of energy-saving firewood cookers, bio-gas plants, dynamos driven by bicycle wheels and gas-fired engines from the World War II period underscored the plight of the 800,000 Tamils living here without electricity since 1990.

Bicycles are the main mode of transport and every inch of road here has been removed by the Tigers to build bunkers. Gasoline and diesel vehicles are now running on kerosene mixed with thinner or vegetable oil.

Despite the difficulties, women undergraduates turned up at the Jaffna University last week dressed in deep blue, green, red and purple Indian silk saris, with elaborate gold thread-work, to pose for their end-of-term photographs.

The university itself was the scene of a bloody battle between Indian para-commandos and the LTTE, which used the campus as a base. Most of the damage

to the buildings has been repaired, but the scars remain.

Shops here are full of the popular Indian silk saris, clothing, plastic ware and Hindi and South Indian music. The Tigers at one time trained in India, separated from this area by the narrow Palk Strait.

The Jaffna hospital is also looking for sterilising equipment from India. "Indian equipment is easy to service because any technician can repair them, unlike the sophisticated machines from the West or Japan," a doctor here said.

Tamil journalists say they suspect that neighbouring India may get involved again in Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict to launch an offensive or at least militarily support the Sri Lankan security forces against the LTTE.

M. Nimalath, who works for the Eelantham Tamil daily, said they were suspicious of Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's sending a special envoy to Colombo soon after his counterpart Chandra Kumaratunga assumed office last month.

Compounding the fears was a trip last week to India by senior Sri Lankan bureaucrat Lionel Fernando, who is tipped to be a key negotiator for Colombo at possible peace talks with the LTTE to resolve the drawn-out conflict.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Jaffna, Thomas Saundaranayagam, said that India should not get involved in the Sri Lankan conflict again. India lost 1,140 soldiers at the hands of the LTTE during its intervention.

The bishop said the people of Jaffna, who are mostly Hindus, should be forgiven for feeling strongly because they were seriously affected as a result of the Indian army moving in to forcibly disarm the LTTE.

"India should not do anything to sabotage the (latest) peace process. It is also to the good of India that we live in peace," the bishop said. India is currently repatriating thousands of Tamils who had sought refuge there.

LTTE ideologist Anton Balasingam, in an interview here, avoided referring to India but said recognition from "Sri Lanka, India and the world" was crucial to strengthening the economic and social structures built here.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt frees 34 Palestinian prisoners

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has released 34 Palestinians imprisoned in the country for several years, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) top representative in Cairo Zohdi Al Kedra, told AFP on Tuesday. The group who were released last week had already left Egypt for various destinations, he added without elaborating. The Palestinian Human Rights Commission was informed of the release in a letter from Egyptian Ambassador to Israel, Mohammad Bassiuni. In his letter he told the Commission president, Hanan Ashrawi, that the group would be released "on condition they are transferred to the autonomous Gaza Strip or any other place coordinated by the Palestinian embassy in Cairo." Dr. Ashrawi said she had asked Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa to free 50 Palestinians arrested in Egypt mainly for not having identity papers while on the run from Israeli authorities. Most of them were wanted for taking part in the intifada. "We are very happy by this reply which reflects a positive attitude by Egypt towards the Palestinians," Dr. Ashrawi said after receiving Mr. Bassiuni's letter. According to Union of Palestinian Women in Egypt between 105 and 110 Palestinians were being held in Egypt before the releases.

Warrants issued against Lebanon militiamen

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanese judge arrest warrants on Tuesday for four former militiamen accused of involvement in the 1978 killing of Christian leader Tony Frangieh and his family, judicial sources said. They said the four belonged to the right-wing Falange Party, which evolved into the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia banned last March in connection with a church blast in February that killed 11 people. The arrest warrants were a mere formality as the four were seized a few days ago and put in jail after the same judge interviewed them on Monday. Judge Abdullah Al Bitar questioned the suspects about their alleged roles in the assassination of Frangieh, his wife, daughter and 29 bodyguards on June 13, 1978 in Ehden in northern Lebanon, the sources said. A fifth suspect in custody since the attack at the height of the 1975-90 civil war is also being questioned. LF leader Samir Geagea has been in jail since April awaiting trial on charges stemming from the church bombing and the 1990 murder of rival Dani Chamoun and members of his family.

Burglar kills wife of Hungarian diplomat

NICOSIA (R) — A burglar killed the wife of a Hungarian diplomat and seriously injured him at their home in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, on Tuesday. "The intruder, apparently a burglar according to eyewitnesses, killed the diplomat's wife and injured him severely. The Hungarian diplomat is in critical condition," the agency said. IRNA said the killer escaped after the incident at Mahmoudiyeh district, an exclusive neighbourhood in north Nicosia near the Hilton Hotel. It said the diplomat was the cultural attaché at the Hungarian embassy in Nicosia but did not name him or his wife. Police had launched an investigation, it added.

Pro-Israeli militiamen hurt in attack

MARIJAYOUN (AFP) — A roadside bomb exploded Tuesday in South Lebanon, slightly wounding three militiamen of Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA), a spokesman said. The militiamen were on patrol near Kfar Falus in the central sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone" when the bomb exploded, the spokesman said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack which the SLA blamed on "terrorists" — a term usually used by the militia for guerrillas like the Iranian-backed Hizbollah.

Lebanese daily returns to newsstands

BEIRUT (AFP) — The right-wing daily Al Amal, mouthpiece of the Falange Party, returned to the newsstands on Tuesday after a four-year absence, with a scathing attack on Prime Minister Rafiq Al Hariri's government. The newspaper had stopped publication after sustaining heavy damages to its offices during the last two years of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war and due to lack of funds. "If we ask the Lebanese people to voice their opinion they would say this is not the nation they want," a front-page editorial said, adding its voice to the growing opposition to Mr. Hariri. The Falange, the main Christian party during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, are spreading a campaign against an ambitious multi-billion dollar scheme to rebuild the war-battered city centre of Beirut.

Iraqi in fake Lebanese bill operation

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese authorities have arrested a former Iraqi diplomat and two of his compatriots smashing a counterfeiting ring, the state security at the defence ministry said on Tuesday. The diplomat, who was not named, was a former secretary at the Iraqi embassy in Beirut. Police launched investigations after seizing 35 million Lebanese pounds (around \$20,000) in fake bills earlier this month in the Bekaa Valley, it said in a statement. A week-long inquiry led state security police to arrest the Iraqi ringleader and his aides seizing an additional 80 million Lebanese pounds (around \$42,000), the statement said. The men were working out of an apartment in the Kesrawan mountains, the Christian heartland of Lebanon northeast of Beirut, where they kept sophisticated equipment worth \$50,000. They dealt exclusively in printing fake 50,000 Lebanese pound notes and 100,000 Lebanese pounds notes. But specimens of currency from the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Germany were also found on the premises. Investigations are continuing to track down other members of the gang.

UAE executes murderers, rapist

ABU DHABI (R) — The emirate of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates executed by firing squad three convicted murderers and one man found guilty of raping a schoolgirl, an official statement said on Tuesday. An Interior Ministry statement named the three murderers as Ishaq Hussein Juma, Mohammad Mousa Taher and Ibrahim Mohammad Abbas. It said a fourth man, Anwar Mohammad Sulaiman Al Maamari, was executed for kidnap and rape. The executions were carried out on Monday after appeal courts upheld their sentences and UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan confirmed them. Police said the four men were blindfolded and executed by firing squad by one by one in the presence of some of their victims' families. "Maamari, a UAE national, was found guilty of kidnapping a 13-year-old girl waiting for a schoolbus early in the morning last year and raping her twice in the desert. The other men, said to be stateless, robbed and shot four currency exchange house workers, killing three, the police said."

Envoy says Algeria to ratify NPT

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Algeria's foreign minister on Monday announced that his government would ratify the current nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) during the current General Assembly session, but he did not set a date. "I General Assembly session, but he did not set a date. "I have the honour to solemnly announce from this podium the decision by Algeria to ratify the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" during this session, Foreign Minister Mohammad Salah Dendabi told 184-nation assembly. The assembly is officially in session throughout the year but its most active season is usually from September to December. The 1970 Non-Proliferation Treaty, which has been signed by 164 nations, pledges nations to refrain from

Jordan reaffirms role

(Continued from page 1)

for employees' salaries. Relations between Jordan and the Palestine National Authority, which administers the autonomous West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip, grew strained after the July 25 signing of the Washington Declaration, in which Israel acknowledged a special Jordanian role in caring for holy sites in Jerusalem.

The Palestinians interpreted the clause as harming their claim for political sovereignty over Jerusalem, which they want as the capital of a future Palestinian state. The Palestine National Authority also appointed a minister with the sole duties of maintaining holy shrines in the West Bank, including Jerusalem.

Tuesday's Jordanian Cabinet statement, quoting the King, said: "There have been attempts by some employees of the Palestine National Authority to create a conflict with the Kingdom over its historic role which preserved the Arab and Muslim holy sites in the occupied territories."

It said those included the "harassment" of Jordanian employees working for Islamic shrines in the occupied territories and taking unilateral decisions, sidestepping Jordan's religious role.

"His Majesty ordered the Council of Ministers to take all necessary measures which ensure an end to all attempts aimed at creating a conflict with the Kingdom and that all these decisions should not in any sense affect the brotherly relations between the Jordanian and the Palestinian people," it said.

"At the same time several statements were issued recently concerning the status of Awqaf and Islamic affairs and Islamic courts in the

West Bank, and numerous contacts with and pressures on the ministry-appointed officials were reported at a time when the Kingdom has been striving to carry out its historic role in safeguarding these sites and in enhancing the steadfastness of the Palestinian people," it said.

The King said that Jordanian-Israeli negotiations were continuing with the aim of enabling Jordan to arrive at a lasting and comprehensive solution.

"Any high level Jordanian-Israeli contacts are being taken within the framework of the Washington Declaration and aim at pursuing the path which guarantees the restoration of our full rights in our land and our water and ensure the settlement of all outstanding issues as contained in the common agenda so that security and stability and chances for a decent and dignified life for our people can be achieved," the King said.

The Islamic affairs minister in the Palestinian self-rule government on Tuesday welcomed Jordan's decision to sever its religious ties with the West Bank.

"I think it's a good step in the right direction," the minister, Hassan Tahboub, told the Associated Press.

Sheikh Tahboub said he was confident the controversy over Jerusalem could be settled, and hinted that the Palestinians would not insist on exclusive control.

"Jerusalem is for all Muslims and we cannot ban any Muslim from claiming his right to Jerusalem," he said. "The Palestinian National Authority will discuss the issue with its Jordanian brothers, and we are sure that we will come to a conclusion that will satisfy everybody."

Rabin decision under fire

(Continued from page 1)

came to power that construction of settlements was being "frozen" although work already started would be completed.

But the housing ministry's director general, Arieh Mizrahi, has written to Alfe Menashe "mayor" Sholom Karan to announce that "planning will resume" to build 844 housing units on Tal Hill on the edge of the settlement and 150 others in the centre, Haaretz said.

Mr. Karan told the paper that it would be possible to start work in six months, and the decision would double the area's population of several thousands within two to three years.

Government sources told Haaretz the decision was part of a policy aiming to stop Israel having to retreat to the 1967 ceasefire line in "problematic areas" in any peace settlement with the Palestinians, by building around the line.

Alfe Menashe is in the northwest of the West Bank close to the Palestinian town of Kalkilyah on the outskirts of Tel Aviv and on the edge of the line.

Under the Israeli-PLO

accords Palestinian self-rule was launched in Gaza and Jericho first and is to be extended across the West Bank for an interim five-year period.

The final status of the territories and the 120 settlements is to be negotiated after May 1996.

Khalil Tufakji, the Palestinian self-rule authority's consultant on settlements, said Israel was hoping to increase the Jewish presence along a six-kilometre east-west corridor linking Israel to Jordan.

Uri Dromi stressed that the new building would be privately financed. Much of the building by previous right-wing governments was subsidised by the state.

Israeli concern over the "security" of settlers had delayed the second phase of Palestinian self-rule in which Israeli troops are to pull out of West Bank towns in preparation for Palestinian general elections. Autonomy began in May in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Israeli and PLO teams are to meet in Egypt Monday to hammer out details for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

U.S. forces tighten grip

(Continued from page 1)

at Port-au-Prince airport in order to free up soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division for other duties.

Another 142 Haitian boat refugees arrived in Port-au-Prince from Guantanamo Bay naval base, the second group of volunteers to return to Haiti since the Americans intervened.

As of Tuesday, some 15,600 American troops have come to Haiti to help pave the way for Mr. Aristide's restoration. They have been warmly welcomed by Haiti's civilians who are eager to put years of brutal dictatorship behind them in favour of democracy.

Haitian military author-

ities, however, have been wary of the Americans, and a firefight between the two sides killed 10 Haitians late Saturday night.

In Cap-Haitien, to the north, many authorities have simply abdicated to American forces. And in Port-au-Prince, even routine police work is now sometimes referred to the Americans.

President Clinton, meanwhile, lifted travel, economic and most other U.S. sanctions against Haiti, and urged other nations to follow suit. The aim of the trade embargo was to oust the army commander and coup leader, Lieutenant-General Cedras, and restore Mr. Aristide.

State to pay for water tariff hike

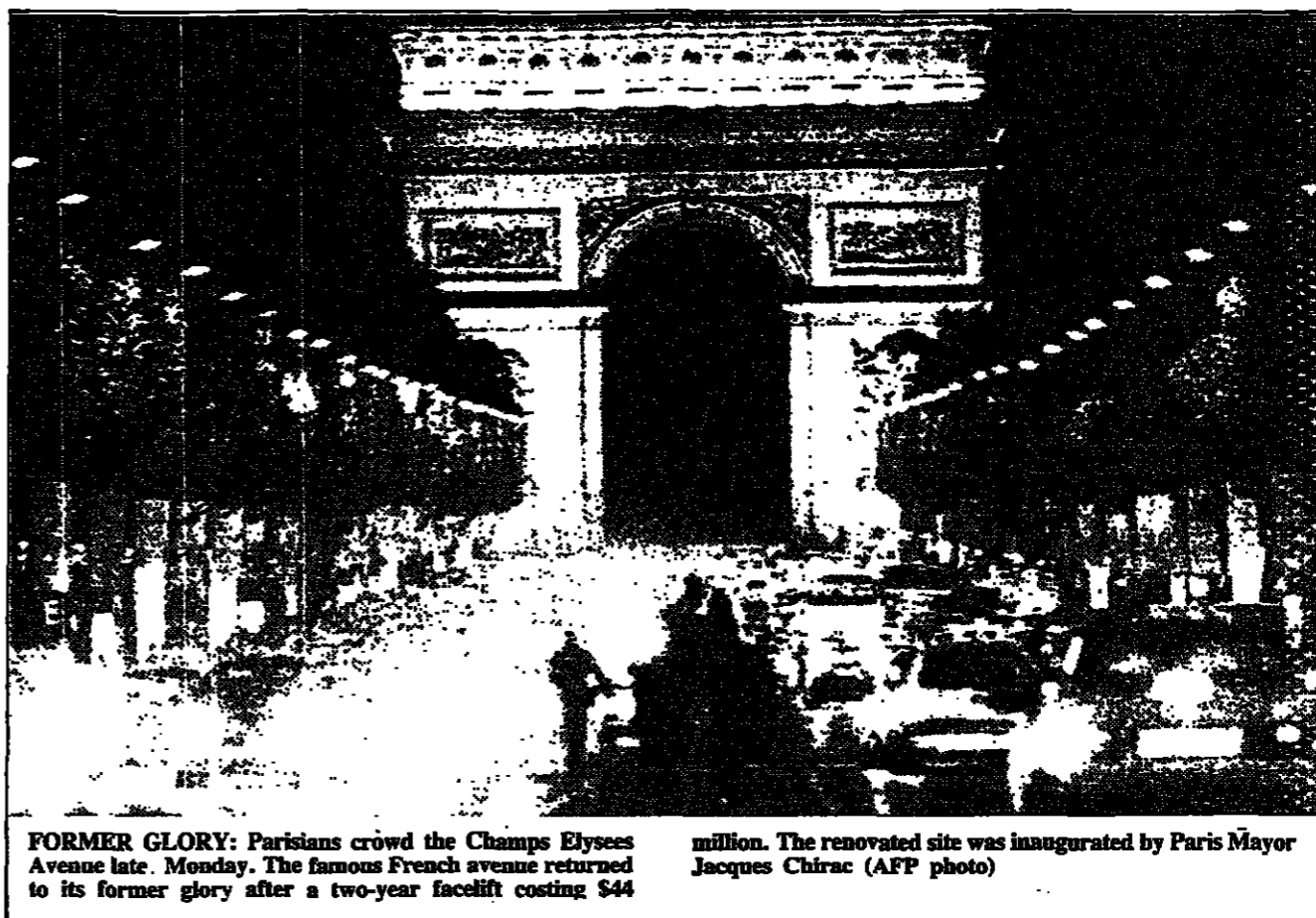
(Continued from page 1)

week and announced that they would stage a general strike today in protest against the decision.

Mr. Ben Tarif, in a statement carried by Petra, said that Dr. Majali discussed the issue during Tuesday's meeting and announced that the government would cover the difference between the actual payments at the new and old rates during the period between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31.

Dr. Majali also announced that the government was setting aside JD 1 million to cover the difference and face the burdens resulting from the increase in the tariff after Jan. 1, 1995. It was not immediately clear whether the allocation was sufficient to cover the projected increase for the entire year.

Mr. Ben Tarif said a committee would be set up including government representatives and parliament members to work out the



FORMER GLORY: Parisians crowd the Champs Elysees Avenue late Monday. The famous French avenue returned to its former glory after a two-year facelift costing \$44

million. The renovated site was inaugurated by Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac (AFP photo)

Labour MK suggests Palestine state

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel was plunged into a political storm Tuesday as proposals to change the ruling Labour Party's programme to include acceptance of a Palestinian state with an "embassy" in East Jerusalem were announced.

Israel Radio broadcast details of the proposals to be presented by Labour Party Member of Knesset (MK) Hagai Merom, causing an outcry from enraged right-wingers.

A source close to the Labour Party said Mr. Merom would submit a document to the party leadership stating it "no longer opposes the creation of a Palestinian state and grants the Palestinians the right to establish an embassy in East Jerusalem."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin instructed Mr. Merom to present "structural" reform proposals to the party. Mr. Merom did not explain how the Palestinian "embassy" would function, but said

it would be in Orient House, the current headquarters of the Palestinian delegations to the peace talks.

The Palestinians lay claim to East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state, but Israel has declared the holy city its "eternal" capital.

The source said Mr. Merom proposed holding an extraordinary party congress as soon as possible so that it would adopt "the new guidelines taking account of the fundamental changes which have occurred in the region" since the last party congress in 1991.

The congress preceded the June 1992 parliamentary elections which brought Mr. Rabin to power but came after the launching of the Middle East peace process in Madrid in October 1991.

Mr. Merom's draft programme also called on the party to grant Labour deputies full powers to achieve an accord with Syria guar-

anteeing Israel's "security and water supplies."

And it proposed that the government help settlers in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights to leave the occupied territories even before an accord is reached on the final status of the territories. The level of compensation should be fixed new, Mr. Merom suggested.

Right-wingers accused the Labour Party of allying itself politically with its left-wing coalition partner Meretz.

Representatives of settlers on the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in 1967, described the proposals as a "disgrace."

Meanwhile, Trade and Industry Minister Misha Harish, a member of the Labour Party, said the proposals were "a sure recipe for a split in the party."

Balloon message to Syria

Israeli peace activists on Tuesday let loose coloured

balloons with messages in Arabic telling Syrian President Hafez Al Assad they support giving back land for peace.

Dozens of supporters of the left-wing Meretz party gathered near the frontier with Syria as Legislator Naomi Hazan sent off dozens of balloons, each with a peace message attached. "We are reaching the point now where we have to decide."

But just a few kilometres from the Meretz rally, thousands of Israelis visited a group of 13 Golan settlers who have been on a liquid fast since Sept. 11 as part of a protest campaign to block withdrawal from any part of the Heights.

Thousands of people have been visiting the protesters every day during the week-long fast of tabernacles which ended Tuesday. The holiday traditionally is a time for family outings.

Mainstream press lags behind — panelists

(Continued from page 1)

change as based on "the pursuit of truth," then the papers have achieved very little.

"With an official mentality that sees the truth as none other than the safeguarding of the security of the state, and a mainstream press that knows the limits of its power, it will take journalism some years, if we are on the optimistic side, to adopt the pursuit of truth as its mission," Mr. Hawatmeh said.

Similarly, if one were to assess the Jordanian media in terms of substances, the progress in the last four years has been minimal, he said.

On the other hand, if quality and quantity were the measurements, then the Jordanian media have indeed made remarkable progress, he said.

It has to be remembered that the entire change, positive or negative, has taken place in a "higher plateau," Mr. Hawatmeh said, referring to the general elections of 1989 and 1993, the introduction of a multi-party political system and the emergence of a vibrant parliament in the Kingdom.

Mr. Hawatmeh attributed what he saw as the lack of meaningful progress on the part of the three mainstream newspapers to five distinct reasons. They were:

— There has been little change in the people, including the top editors, in the mainstream press. "The hierarchy moved at the same place as the regime did," he said. "It was going to be a peaceful, slow process of change. Some even thought the democratisation process was not real."

The three main newspapers were still in the majority owned by the government, with top two, Al Rai and Al Dustour, continuing to thrive economically and financially. "The shareholders, represented by the board of directors which appoints the editors-in-chief, saw neither a reason to rock the boat, nor solid competition to force change. Sawt Al Sha'b, which has been losing money consistently, was content to receive subsidy from the state in return for towing the line."

certain complacency, but they were powerless to change things. The Jordan Press Association was at no time available to help the cause.

While the democratisation of Jordan has brought more freedom and independence for the press, the process has not heralded the advent of institution-building where journalism was concerned. "I am talking about a press club, a press institute or a press foundation, basically organisations which concern themselves with the rights and responsibilities of the news media. Newspapers will never be able to do this on their own," Mr. Hawatmeh said.

— The new Press and Publications Law enacted in 1993 imposed legal restrictions on the forward movement of the Jordanian press.

"But more importantly, perhaps, it is in the political and socio-economic fields that the leaders of the press have failed to find themselves, to establish policies for their newspapers," Mr. Hawatmeh added.

Mr. Sharif of Al Dustour, in his working paper, tackled the issue of the coverage of opposition in the Jordanian media.

Mr. Sharif noted that the government continues to own partial but significant shares of newspapers and said that this constitutes an obstacle to the papers' editors exercising free options in extending liberal coverage of opposition parties' activities.

Another hurdle, he said, was the social structure, "which makes it difficult to criticise any individual in Jordan since such criticism would be taken as levelled against the particular tribe of that individual, who does not make any distinction between his post and his person."

Furthermore, said Mr. Sharif, journalists are still affected by the martial rule era.

Miss Andoni tackled investigative reporting in her paper. She stressed that it was untrue that the media in the West is granted more freedom than the Arab media.

Noting that the Jordanian government in the past used to restrict the freedom of the press by closing national tel-

and investigative reporting was linked to development in the field of public freedoms.

She distinguished between leakage of information and investigative reporting, saying the "leakage" of information makes journalists as a tool by those leaking information to hit at other sides and their interests.

Ms. Andoni said that the martial rule era in Jordan has negatively affected the general psychological conditions of journalists by being a main source of anxiety for them and causing them the feeling of being professionally insecure.

Dr. Fanek, a columnist for Al Rai and the Jordan Times, dealt in his paper with coverage of economic news and corruption cases.

Dr. Fanek said the Jordanian press enjoys a reasonable margin of the freedom of expression and the freedom to criticise, especially since the democratisation process started in 1989, admitting that this freedom was not fully exploited. He attributed this to the pre-1989 era.

He said the Jordanian press gives due coverage space for economic news, but that the coverage mostly relies on outside sources such as foreign news agencies.

Thus the Jordanian press publishes reports about foreign financial markets, exchange rates and gold prices in foreign currencies because of the unavailability of local economic news, he pointed out.

Dr. Fanek said Jordan had only a limited number of part-time economic writers, and there are almost no full-time economy editors at the local newspapers. He concluded that these editors very often commit grave mistakes when they misunderstand some economic news.

The columnist said that while the daily Jordanian press avoid tackling corruption issues because of lack of evidence to corroborate the stories and to avoid legal and tribal risks, weekly newspapers welcome publishing any such stories without hesitation to help increase their circulation.

Thus, he said, dealing with corruption by the press is either one of two extremes — either publishing without verifying news, or ignoring

Dr. Fanek also said that the Jordanian public opinion tends to believe corruption charges without evidence, and consequently those charged (by the press) are indicted by the public until proven innocent.

He concluded by saying that democracy was the most healthy atmosphere for preventing corruption because a free press can detect it. He theorised that the budding democracy in Jordan and the hesitation of the press in carrying out its duties in fighting corruption or in handling corruption issues hastily and irresponsibly makes them an easy target for corrupt officials instead of having the opposite effect.

At the outset of the seminar, Director of the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies Mustafa Hamarneh asserted that the press can play a key role in strengthening democracy.

Reviewing the centre's philosophies, Dr. Hamarneh said organising the seminar reflected the centre's keenness to deal with issues of concern to the society and to handle them in a scientific and well-studied manner.

The role of Jordan Television and Radiq was dealt with in the afternoon session.

Presenting working papers on the subject were Radi Al Khas, who served as head of the Jordan Broadcasting Corporation between 1989 and June 1994, and Jawad Zada, a senior official at Jordan Radio.

In essence, both papers said without financial and administrative independence of the broadcasting corporation, it was an impossible task to bring about dramatic changes in the approach at television and radio, which, for all technical and practical purposes, are an arm of the government.

Mr. Al Khas, who now heads a private sector media organisation, said he had tried to introduce changes during his tenure at the broadcasting corporation, but found the task too hard in the absence of financial and administrative autonomy.

A session on the coverage of the peace process in the Jordanian media concluded the day's deliberations of the seminar (details of that session will be reported in

World Bank says private firms can revive Egyptian economy

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, racing against time to create new jobs for its ever-growing population, needs to lift financial and bureaucratic barriers which have stifled its private sector for decades, the World Bank said Tuesday.

The bank said small private firms, left out in the cold in the first three years of the country's wide-ranging economic reform programme, held the key to boosting exports, stimulating economic growth and creating employment.

"Egypt's economy is in much better shape than three years ago. But the (reforms) have not yet delivered in one crucial component — the private sector response has not happened," said Marcelo Giugale, resident World Bank economist in Egypt.

"Egypt has to create 500,000 new jobs a year until 2000. You cannot wait. You have to see why your private sector is not reacting," he told reporters at the launch of a World Bank report on private sector development.

The report puts Egyptian unemployment at around 17.5 per cent of the labour force, or 2.8 million people, of whom 70 per cent are under 20. The population of 58 million is growing at more than two per cent a year, adding pressure on the labour market.

"Population growth is the single most important problem faced by Egypt's economy in the long term," says the report.

It says that around three-quarters of the jobs which can be expected to be created before the end of the decade

would come from small firms employing less than 10 people.

Those firms account for almost 99 per cent of all companies in the private sector, which itself accounts for two thirds of the Egyptian labour force.

But it says four decades of inward-oriented central planning have left those small companies ill-prepared to bear the burden of creating some 3.6 million jobs.

The report sets out six major hurdles private firms face in Egypt: Complicated tax laws, lack of skilled workers, lack of bank credit to small firms, uncertainty over government economic policy, excess bureaucracy and unfavourable judicial systems.

It describes the lack of longer term credit available to small firms as "probably

the most acute financial constraint for private business in Egypt."

It says privatisation, the flagship of the economic reform programme, should be expanded to include government monopolies such as the oil and gas industry, railways, ports and airports.

It even mentions putting a market price on the Suez Canal, an emblem of Egyptian patriotism whose nationalisation by then President Gamal Abdul Nasser in 1956 led a joint British, French and Israeli invasion.

The report was prepared ahead of a conference next month bringing together Egyptian businessmen, government officials and World Bank experts to tackle problems still holding back the private sector and the sluggish progress of privatisation.

Lebanese government under pressure to ease daily economic hardships

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Lebanese government, which has embarked on a costly post-war reconstruction scheme, is facing mounting pressure from political, religious and trade union leaders who warn the country is on the brink of social explosion because of spiralling inflation.

"People are hurting and cannot take more and more promises," said Elias Abu Rizk, head of the 400,000-strong General Confederation of Trade (CGTL), which is threatening nationwide strikes and demonstrations.

The CGTL is demanding an 88 per cent pay rise, claiming that prices have risen by

an average of 155 per cent between early 1992 and mid-1994.

The Association of Lebanese Banks reported a 12 per cent inflation rate for the first seven months of the year and said the country's economy was stagnating.

The head of the Maronite church, Lebanon's largest Christian community, has also joined the fray, charging in a recent Sunday sermon that "clouds of hunger" hung over Lebanon.

His words were echoed by the Muslim Fundamentalist Hizbollah group which has warned of a "social explosion."

Parliamentary speaker Nabih Berry meanwhile called on the government to declare "a state of economic emergency."

"We must take urgent steps to fight against the cost of living and monopolies and give priority to readjusting monthly wages in order to restore the people's dignity," he said, adding that ignoring the situation would make things worse.

For Rima, a cleaning woman who earns the equivalent of around \$10 a day, the worst has already arrived.

"This year I cannot afford to send my four children to school. The girls will stay home but the eight-year-old boy will go," she said.

"Every day we must try a new juggling act just to survive. Life was easier during the war," said a press photographer who asked not to be named.

Multi-millionaire Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, the driving force behind a large-scale post-war reconstruction scheme, maintains the gov-

ernment has worked hard to improve the quality of life in Lebanon since the end of the 1975-1990 war.

Earlier this year it authorised salary increases, setting minimum wages at around \$120 — well below the \$870 which the CGTL maintains is needed by an average Lebanese family each month.

Lebanon has a building site on every corner, new telephone and power networks are being installed and the Hariri government has secured a halt to the devaluation of the Lebanese lira.

But Nada and Samir, a couple who got married in the summer of 1993, are considering emigrating to seek a better quality of life.

With a combined salary of \$1,000 they cannot make ends meet or rent an apartment. "Having a child is out of the question," Nada said.

Like most Lebanese, Nada and Samir must pay two monthly electricity bills — one to the state which supplies around four hours of electricity each day and another to a private electricity company.

In addition to the monthly water bill many other families pay up to \$60 a month to buy water because of daily shortages and those with small children fork out an extra \$50 for bottled water.

"Our economic future is very solid and ... Lebanon is moving ahead towards economic balance," Mr. Hariri said this month.

But his words are lost on the Lebanese people and newspapers who are demanding immediate solutions to power and water cuts, rising prices, congested roads and pollution, and calling for a "better quality of life."

Derivatives to come under IMF spotlight

LONDON (R) — Severe turbulence on world markets this year is likely to put financial derivatives under an intense spotlight at the annual International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting which starts in

Madrid this week.

Derivatives are financial products like swaps and options that help buyers and sellers to reduce their risks or to increase their risk sharply in the hope of enhanced pro-

fits.

The market has buzzed with news of losses on derivatives by well-known companies throughout 1994, tarnishing the reputation of the burgeoning and complex

markets.

Gay Evans, chairman of the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA), could face tough questions from investors when she addresses a fringe meeting in Madrid.

"The stage was set for much of the attention that derivatives are receiving by the largely unanticipated interest rate rises in the United States and financial losses related to those increases," Ms. Evans, a managing director at Bankers Trust in London, told a recent conference.

In February the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, raised interest rates for the first time for five years, sending shock waves through world financial markets.

Bonds, at all-time highs, crashed into a downward trend from which they have yet to recover. Stocks headed lower, too, and currency markets also suffered.

Many market operators were caught out since they had not expected the interest rate rise so early in the year.

U.S. group Procter Gamble said in April it lost \$102 million through a complex derivatives strategy after interest rates rose. Other firms, such as Germany's Metallgesellschaft, lost money on derivatives linked to the energy markets.

Investment fund managers and dealers also felt the pain.

This forced regulators around the world to scrutinise the markets, fearing that the sometimes highly leveraged structure of deals — involving a lot of borrowing — heightened "systemic risk," the danger that the collapse of one firm could destabilise the overall financial system.

Chinese tax revenue jumps

BEIJING (AFP) — China's tax overhaul boosted government revenue by one third in the first eight months of the year, but evasion and arrears remained a serious problem in many areas, the China Daily has said.

Total tax revenues were up 33.7 per cent from January to August over the same period last year, State Administration of Taxation officials were quoted as saying.

The officials gave no breakdown for the first eight months, but said that in August industrial and commercial tax revenues had risen 30.7 per cent. Industrial turnover tax income totalled 15.46 billion yuan, up 33.6 per cent, in August, while consumption tax and value added tax revenue hit 3.26 billion yuan and 12.2 billion yuan, up six per cent and 44.3 per cent respectively, the report said.

Multi-millionaire Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, the driving force behind a large-scale post-war reconstruction scheme, maintains the gov-

Oman, India to lay deepest undersea gas line

DUBAI (R) — Oman and India have agreed to lay the world's deepest underwater natural gas pipeline as part of a multi-billion dollar deal, the Indian embassy said in a statement Tuesday.

The statement said the state-owned Oman Oil Company would work on the second phase of a feasibility study and, subject to its results, a final long-term gas supply deal would be signed in July 1995.

Oman and India signed the statement described as "a historic agreement" on the principal provisions of a long-term gas supply contract in Muscat on Monday night.

The embassy said the feasibility study would involve "confirmation of gas reserves in Oman, upstream gas field development survey (and) selection of the pipeline route."

It would also have to find "specific solutions for outstanding technical challenges associated with the laying and operating of a sub-sea pipeline at depths exceeding 3,000 metres."

Pipes at such depths have to withstand the enormous pressure of the water above.

"This will be the deepest sub-sea pipeline in the world — the deepest existing pipeline being at depths of about 800 metres," it said.

The project, when finally concluded, would be one of two major gas export schemes Oman is planning as a supplement to its crude oil and would provide India with much needed energy to fuel a boom in demand caused by economic liberalisation.



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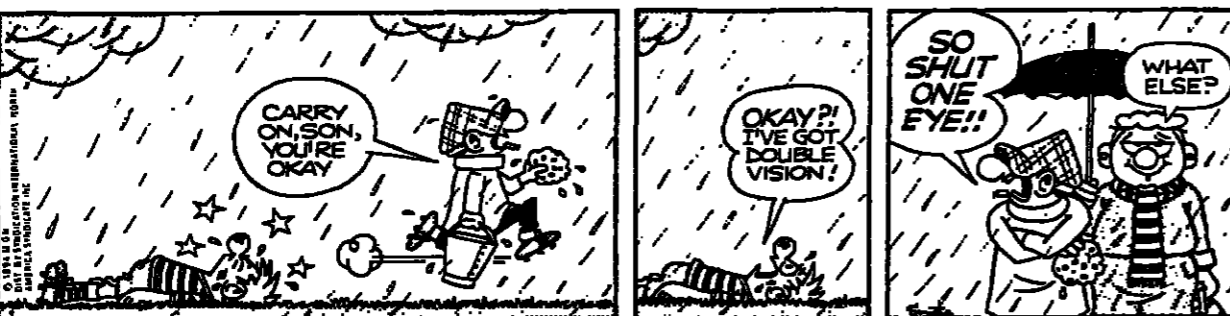
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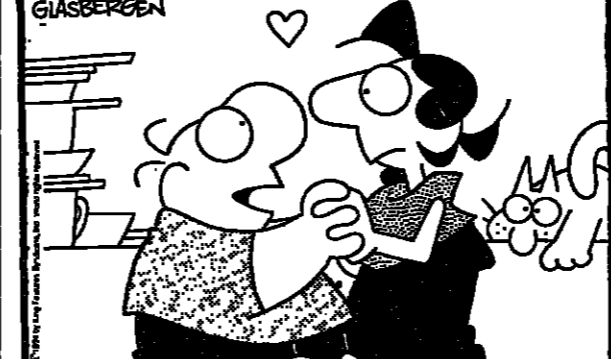
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ALIVA

NACYF

BOULED

CATLEK

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: GLOAT SNORT CARPET URGIN

Yesterday's Jumble: GLOAT SNORT CARPET URGIN

Answer: How the elephants ended up after happy hour — AS "TIGHT" PALS

Tried & Liked

IT'S TOPS

DAJANI'S

Gold & Gems Jewelry

Amra Hotel, 6th Circle, Amman.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening when you can accomplish a lot if you are careful not to be over-extravagant or to allow some personal prejudice to take over control. Forget the homework that isn't really important.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study all practical affairs and know how to handle them ideally in the days ahead. Show that you are proficient in your actions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Come to a better understanding with associates who are proposing a good deal. Be willing to compromise to keep the peace.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Set a goal for yourself and then you can get much work done. Accomplish a good deal. Take needed health treatments to look your best.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) After your tasks are completed, get into recreations that really appeal to you, but don't overspend.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Forget that feeling of resentment at home and find the right way to have greater accord beneath your roof. Learn to control your temper.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Communicating with those with whom you want to do business in the future is wise, so set things up now so you can proceed.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Concentrating on finances is wise so that you can manage money better now and in the future. Find new sources of income for the future.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You want your own way now and the benefits which can accrue, so get busy and work until the sun goes down to make real progress.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have many worries, but be patient and solve them one by one during the day. Don't lose your temper tonight with your mate.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A dynamic friend can help you during the day in gaining a cherished wish. Don't make important decisions at night.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) It is important you safeguard your reputation both today and tonight, so don't do anything erratic which you could regret later.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Before you get into some new venture, be sure you have the right information about it. Avoid a new contact who is suspicious.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE Daily Crossword by Mark & Jane Crowell

ACROSS

- Pizza name
- Poultry place
- Banned article
- ... of two
- Shelf
- Conspire
- Parasite
- Curry ingredient
- President
- Ring decision
- Abundant
- Adversary
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Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 26/9/94	Tokyo Close Date 27/9/94
Sterling Pound	1.5720	1.5758
Deutsche Mark	1.5536	1.5510
Swiss Franc	1.2871	1.2838
French Franc	5.3085	5.3022**
Japanese Yen	98.75	98.46
European Currency Unit	1.2308	1.2306**

USD Per STG
** European Opening at 8:00 A.M. GMT

European Currency Interest Rates
Date: 27/9/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.81	5.00	5.43	5.87
Sterling Pound	5.16	5.62	6.00	7.06
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.81	5.00	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.62	3.75	4.12	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.68	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.18	2.25	2.43
European Currency Unit	5.54	5.77	6.18	6.81

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 27/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.0967	1.1022
Deutsche Mark	0.4490	0.4512
Swiss Franc	0.5421	0.5448
French Franc	0.1314	0.1321
Japanese Yen	0.7072	0.7107
Dutch Guilder	0.4006	0.4026
Swedish Krona	0.0445	0.0447
Italian Lira	0.0445	0.0447
Belgian Franc	0.0445	0.0447

Other Currencies
Date: 27/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8330	1.8500
Lebanese Lira	0.04100	0.04220
Saudi Riyal	0.1855	0.1874
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3130	2.8870
Qatari Riyal	0.1903	0.1923
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Rial	1.7910	1.8170
UAE Dirham	0.1892	0.1902
Greek Drachma	0.2735	0.3145
Cypriot Pound	1.3950	1.5000

European oil refiners squeezed by slim margins

LONDON (R) — European oil companies are being squeezed by slim profit margins on refining as gasoline prices slide and heating fuel fails to compensate, industry analysts say.

By stockpiling huge quantities of gas oil — heating fuel — ahead of the northern hemisphere winter, refiners have kept a lid on prices in a season when they are usually on the way up.

"We're in a no man's land right now. We're at the end of the gasoline season and have significant gas oil stock on both sides of the Atlantic," said Peter Bogin at Cambridge Energy Research Associates in Paris.

U.S. heating oil stocks are 10.4 per cent above last year's levels at 142.5 million barrels, according to the

American Petroleum Institute.

Analysts say there is now so much oil in tanks that if demand does not rise as expected, traders will have to sell unwanted supplies at discounted prices.

Profits from refining crude oil have been hit further by plunging gasoline prices as the peak U.S. car-driving season ends.

Over the past month, the price for benchmark Brent crude oil has risen by 2.8 per cent to \$16.30 per barrel while that of unleaded gasoline in Europe has fallen by 9.7 per cent to \$167 per tonne.

Mr. Bogin says a typical refining margin in Europe is around \$1.50 per barrel, barely enough to pay for expensive upgrading of plants

that environmental law requires.

"Europe is a very slow growth market but refiners are having to make heavy investments to keep pace with environmental laws," he said.

European refiners' main concern now is a tightening of rules on the sulphur content of motor diesel from 0.2 per cent to 0.05 per cent in October 1996.

The high cost of this upgrading is not being met by refinery profits, Mr. Bogin says.

He added that heavy fuel oil is the unlikely beneficiary of a trend towards lighter crudes with lower sulphur content in Europe.

Because of a lightening of Saudi Arabia's crude export mix and a steady increase in Europe's refining conversion capacity, fuel oil production is dropping as many Western economies emerge from a four-year recession.

Moroccan state to sell 'financial jewel'

RABAT (R) — The Moroccan government announced plans Monday to sell its majority stake in the state's main investment holding company, SNI.

Its 67 per cent holding in the Societe Nationale d'Investissement (SNI) is worth 2.5 billion dirhams (\$284 million). Privatisation Minister Abder Rahman Saadi told a news conference.

"It is Morocco's financial and economic jewel. It has not even one dirham in debts," he said. "We will call for bids on Sept. 28 for 51 per cent of SNI and the remaining 16 per cent will be offered to the public and other institutions through the Casablanca Bourse."

"Eighty per cent of the 16 per cent shares will be placed on the stock market to attract a wider public, the rest is for mutual funds," Mr. Saadi said.

The call for bids is valid for 45 days, he said.

Founded in 1966, SNI had at the end of last year spent 505 million dirhams (\$56 million) building up stakes in 41 companies, officials said.

Cement and agro-industry account for 51 per cent of its holdings and 70 per cent of its revenue. It also has shares in the financial, insurance, chemical, mining, automobile

and commercial sectors.

"We have decided that 35 per cent of the capital will be ceded to companies already established in Morocco which have a good reputation," the minister said.

Foreign investors can purchase stakes in the 16 per cent to be offered to private institutions, he said.

The company's board of directors includes representatives of the Banque Nationale de Developpement Economique (BNDE) and the Banque Marocaine du Commerce Extérieur (BMCE). The state has 50 per cent of BMCE and 43.5 per cent of BNDE. Both are also due to be privatised by the end of the year, officials said.

GIC looks at 21 projects in the region

DUBAI (R) — The Gulf Investment Corp (GIC), owned equally by six Arab Gulf states, is considering investing in 21 industrial and agricultural projects in the region, its chief executive was quoted as saying.

The United Arab Emirates' official WAM news agency quoted Khaled Al Fayed as saying projects under study included a pharmaceutical venture in Kuwait in which the GIC had agreed in principle to take a 10 to 12 per cent stake.

The venture, still under study, will have a capital of 13 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$43 million) and the rest will come from Saudi and Kuwaiti investors, Mr. Fayed said.

The other 20 projects were in the fields of manufacturing — including an aluminium smelter in Qatar — and petrochemicals, or agriculture, Mr. Fayed said.

The agency did not give details of the projects and their cost or say how large a stake the GIC might invest in them.

Saudi prince to buy share in Canadian hotel chain

DUBAI (R) — A Saudi prince who this year came to the rescue of Euro Disney has offered to buy 25 per cent of Canada's Four Seasons hotels, the latest in a series of international investments worth billions of dollars.

The announcement was made Tuesday in a statement sent to Reuters by the Riyadh office of Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, a 37-year-old multi-billionaire and nephew of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd.

The statement said the prince and Isadore Sharp, chairman and president of Four Seasons, "announced today that they signed definitive binding agreements" under which the prince would offer to acquire 25 per cent of the stock held by the public for 22 Canadian dollars a share.

It said Mr. Sharp would sell the prince 25 per cent of his holdings at the same price, but did not say how big the stake was.

"The board of directors of Four Seasons has reviewed the transaction and will recommend that shareholders accept the offer," it added.

It said the prince would invest about 165 million Canadian dollars (\$122 million) to acquire the 25 per cent share.

Mr. Sharp would continue as chairman, president and chief executive officer.

But Mr. Sharp and the prince would enter a shareholders agreement governing their future relationship, under which two of the prince's representatives would join the board.

Prince Al Waleed in June came to the rescue of Euro Disney's \$1.14 billion stock rights issue, which almost flopped due to weak demand for the new shares.

The prince, who controls United Saudi Commercial Bank, said in July he had bought a 50 per cent stake in the prestigious San Francisco-based Fairmont hotel chain for an undisclosed sum.

But a group he backed failed in a bid to take 57 per cent of France's luxury Mervin hotel chain this month.

"The prince is a grandson of Saudi Arabia's founder and is one of the richest businessmen in the oil-rich kingdom."

He is the largest shareholder in the U.S. banking giant Citicorp and in 1993 he acquired 10 per cent in Saks Fifth Avenue, the New York fashion retailer.

Four Seasons hotels in 1992 acquired the Hong-Kong based Regent Hotels International Ltd and the statement referred to the Four Seasons-Regent chain.

"The prince will work closely with Four Seasons-Regent in identifying opportunities to acquire and develop luxury hotels for four Seasons-Regent to manage and for Prince Al Waleed to invest in," the statement said.

"The prince intends to allocate approximately 100 million Canadian dollars (\$74 million) to this programme, and as a first step the parties plan for Four Seasons-Regent to manage a luxury hotel now being developed by the prince in the Saudi capital Riyadh," it added.

The statement quoted the prince as saying his new venture was "consistent with my strategy to invest significant amounts of capital with superior management teams throughout the world."

It quoted Mr. Sharp as saying the investment would enable Four Seasons to "accelerate our growth plans globally, further enhancing long-term shareholder value."

It said Prince Al Waleed has built a multi-billion dollar business with interests in construction, real estate, banking, travel, broadcast media, supermarkets and other industries.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET
HOUSING BANK OFFER AMMAN - JORDANIAN
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 27/09/1994
HOUSING BANK OFFER

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	54,900	162.500	162.000	161.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	14,070	3.740	3.800	3.820
BANK OF JORDAN	11,421	1.900	1.950	1.940
MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENT BANK	1,963	1.900	1.940	1.970
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	17,042	2.940	2.990	2.990
THE JORDANIAN BANK	47,720	1.170	1.240	1.240
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	7,187	2.920	2.930	2.940
JORDAN CITY BANK	15,070	1.730	1.750	1.750
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	13,303	1.670	1.700	1.700
SECURITIES BANK	9,615	2.800	2.850	2.840
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,198	8.800	8.800	8.800
WEST BANK DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR HOUSING	1,473	2.300	2.380	2.340
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	20,002	1.470	1.480	1.480
PELAGOSPEL INVESTMENT BANK	33,836	1.980	2.000	1.980
JORDANIAN ECONOMIC BANK	37,404	1.680	1.710	1.700
ARAB INTERNATIONAL BANK	12,649	1.200	1.210	1.210
JORDAN NATIONAL HOUSING BANK	17,668	1.670	1.680	1.680
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	8,222	2.650	2.680	2.710
JORDAN CREDIT REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1,228	0.980	1.020	1.020
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	563	1.110	1.120	1.120
UNION WHOLESALE & COMMODITY STORES	189,791	2.430	2.480	2.470
JORDAN TRUST FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	10,052	3.730	3.730	3.730
THE JORDAN CREDIT FACTORIES	28,671	2.800	2.800	2.800
JORDAN FARMERS BANK	1,318	3.500	3.500	3.510
JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY	940	9.400	9.500	9.500
THE JORDANIAN CONSTRUCTION & AGRICULTURAL	136,561	1.840	1.840	1.840
THE JORDANIAN MINING & PETROLEUM	13,776	2.500	2.510	2.520
ARAB MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	126,561	0.840	0.840	0.840
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	9,818	3.000	3.100	3.100
ARAB INDUSTRIES	3,475	2.700	2.700	2.700
ARAB AL JAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	10,712	16.400	16.400	16.400
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	138,887	1.010	1.040	1.000
ARAB MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	6,188	1.130	1.130	1.130
ARAB PAPER CONVERSION & TRADING	3,127	1.300	1.340	1.340
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	2,180	2.200	2.200	2.200
INTERNATIONAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	13,787	2.750	2.830	2.890
JORDAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES	30,140	1.450	1.450	1.450
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	3,996	4.750	4.750	4.800
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & TRADING	7,840	0.840	0.840	0.840
NATIONAL CABLE & TELEPHONE INDUSTRIES	7,154	6.000	6.000	6.000
JORDAN CEMENT & TRADING	7,128	2.340	2.370	2.380
ARAB CEMENT FOR BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION	44,942	3.000	3.090	3.070
JORDAN CEMENT FOR BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION	3,120	2.130	2.130	2.130
UNION WHOLESALE & COMMODITY STORES	1,400	4.400	4.400	4.470
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	133,019	2.910	2.980	2.940
GRAND TOTAL	1,240,753			

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET: 189243
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET: 1.00 205976

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3490/00	Canadian dollar
	1.5519/29	Deutsche marks
	1.7379/89	Dutch guilders
	1.2841/51	Swiss francs
	5.2985/35	Belgian francs
	1560.0/1.5	French francs
	98.26/36	Italian lire
	7.4736/36	Japanese yen
	6.7977/27	Swedish crowns
	6.0936/86	Norwegian crowns
One sterling	\$1.7378/48	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$394.20/394.60	

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China snubs Japan but will not boycott Asian Games

BEIJING (R) — China Tuesday angrily cancelled a visit by one of its leaders to next week's Asian Games in Japan but said it would not boycott the event, despite the attendance of a top Taiwan politician.

"Blaming 'political trouble' created by the Taiwan authorities and the Japanese government," the foreign ministry said China had "no choice" but to cancel state councillor Li Tieying's plans to travel to Hiroshima for the games.

"The Chinese government hereby expresses its deep regret at that and lodges its protest with the Japanese government," a ministry spokesman told Xinhua news agency.

The carefully calibrated reprisal was seen as ending the dispute over Tokyo's determination — despite China's protests — to let Taiwan Vice Premier Hsu Li-Teh attend the games.

China said its 700-strong delegation, the largest and most formidable, would attend the four-yearly games that open Sunday to promote mutual "understanding and friendship."

In Tokyo Japanese government spokesman Kozo Igarashi praised China for attending the games, despite its earlier refusal to rule out a boycott.

"This is significant for holding the event in a cordial atmosphere," Igarashi said of the games, expected to draw 7,300 athletes and officials from 42 nations.

Beijing had warned of "grave consequences" unless Tokyo cancelled Hsu's visa but in recent days made clear it was unwilling to swallow the bitter pill of a boycott.

China's footballers and some other athletes were already trickling into Hiroshima's games village and hundreds of others were awaiting flights from Beijing.

In its main evening news Tuesday, state radio quoted Li Ruihuan, a member of the standing committee of the Communist Party's ruling politburo, as telling the Chinese team the games are the biggest and most important sports event of the year in Asia.

Since the last Asian Games in 1990 in Beijing, there have been great political and economic changes and the international status of China has greatly increased, which will focus attention on the team, Li said.

The first group of the 783-member team, which will take part in 31 events, is due to leave for Hiroshima Wednesday, the radio said.

China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and opposes its use of sport to battle diplomatic isolation.

The dispute blew up into a diplomatic fracas, with a testy confrontation Monday between the Japanese and Chinese foreign ministers at the United Nations.

"What could have been prevented has been allowed to happen and the Chinese people will not forget it," Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen angrily told Japan's Yohsei Kono.

Qian added that Tokyo had set a "disgusting precedent" by allowing Taiwan to politicise the Asian Games.

The noisiest bilateral row in years cast a cloud over the Hiroshima Games, where Chinese athletes are expected to shine, and evoked references to Japan's wartime aggression in China which cost the lives of 21 million

Chinese.

But it was also a rare instance of Tokyo taking a tough public stand against Beijing.

China initially savaged Japan's plans to welcome Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui. That dispute was settled after the Olympic Council of Asia, which issued the original invitation to Lee, effectively withdrew it.

Japanese sources have said both sides accepted Hsu's attendance as a compromise. But Beijing last week began attacking Tokyo over the visit, sparking rumours that elderly powerbrokers had pulled rank on the foreign ministry.

Tokyo stood its ground, saying it accepted what it regarded as Hsu's non-political mission of representing Taipei's bid to host the 2002 Asian Games.

Qian rejected this, attacking Tokyo's alleged "connivance" with Taiwan and charging that Japan had succumbed to a shrewd nationalist bid for diplomatic support for Taiwan's autonomy.

China has refused to rule out an invasion of Taiwan to prevent it from proclaiming its independence.

Japan counts cost of amateurism

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AFP) — Japan has devoted billions of dollars to staging the Asian Games, but the host nation knows it will suffer in competition because it only spends peanuts on its athletes.

The authorities in Hiroshima, where the 12th Games start Sunday, say more than \$15 billion has been paid out for new stadiums, roads, hotels and a new airport since they were awarded the event.

But the Japanese Olympic Committee, one of the richest in Asia, has spent just 60 million yen (\$600,000) on training the athletes that the politicians are counting on to justify their massive outlay.

Japan's traditionalist society is to blame, say athletes. While the rest of the world embraces professionalism more every year, Japan has insisted on keeping sport amateur.

Japanese experts reckon that China's state-run sports machine has pumped \$1.5 million alone into Ma Junren's training camp for his

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Manchester brace themselves for 'high-risk' match

PARIS (AFP) — Manchester United arrived in Turkey under armed guard Monday determined to prevent lightning striking twice.

Last year, England's FA Cup and Premiership champions could only draw 0-0 at Galatasaray and were eliminated in a nightmare European Champions Cup trip.

Players were allegedly beaten by police, missiles were thrown onto the pitch and innocent fans were rounded up and imprisoned by Turkish authorities.

Eric Cantona was also sent off for dissent at the end of the match. Then he accused referees of corruption in a dressing-room interview, but later apologised to UEFA, explaining he had been misquoted.

The Frenchman still incurred a four-match European suspension which bars him from Wednesday's game at the Ali Sami Yen Stadium.

The British Consulate in Istanbul will be open all night as a precaution, and Turkish police are already bracing for trouble.

Furthermore, United will

be under 24-hour armed guard from the moment they arrive till they leave Turkish soil.

Mehmet Caglar, deputy chief of Istanbul police, said: "From meetings with the British Consulate, it had been established that at least 40 known hooligans will travel."

"If we think people arriving in Istanbul could cause trouble, we have the right to deport them immediately. Three British police officers who know these hooligans will be at the ground to identify them."

United lead Group A after their exciting 4-2 win over twice UEFA Cup champions Gothenburg at Old Trafford two weeks ago.

But Welsh international striker Mark Hughes is doubtful, having missed the last two league games with a groin injury, and the conditions in Istanbul could not be more hostile.

Manager Alex Ferguson said: "We know it will be a ferocious experience on and off the pitch but it can't be any worse than last time."

We've taken every precaution we can and I'm satisfied we've left nothing to chance.

"The players know what to expect. It's an intimidating atmosphere again but we will have to cope. My players know they let it slip last season and this is their chance to put it right."

Galatasaray may have lost 2-1 at Barcelona last time out, but the Turks' dangerous forwards easily beat the offside trap on several occasions.

Gothenburg host Barcelona in the other Group A match.

The Swedes showed great determination and no little skill against United but Barcelona, fresh from a 4-0 league win on Saturday — with two goals each from Hristo Stoichkov and George Hagi — will be clear favourites.

French champions Paris St Germain, who previously beat Bayern Munich 2-0, have suffered a setback as they prepare to visit Spartak Moscow in Group B.

Key central defender

Ricardo will be out for up to a month with an injured left thigh from Friday's French league match against Auxerre.

Bayern, lying fourth in the German league, host Dinamo Kiev, who beat Spartak Moscow 3-2 in their first match.

European champions AC Milan hope to emulate city Internazionale as they take on Austrian champions Salzburg at the San Siro in Group D.

Inter beat Salzburg in the UEFA Cup final last season, and AC will have further motivation from the memory of their opening 2-0 defeat against Ajax Amsterdam.

Milan also suffered their first away defeat for six months at the weekend, going down 1-0 at Cremonese, but coach Fabio Capello is putting on a brave face.

"There is no crisis at Milan," he said. "We lost because of an error by the defence, who were caught out of position, and because some of our players were not at their best."

Ajax travel to AEK Athens, hoping that international midfielder Frank Rijkaard has recovered from a rib injury he picked up on Saturday.

Steaua Bucharest take on Hajduk Split and Benfica tackle Anderlecht in Group C where a goal has yet to be scored. In the first round of matches there were goalless draws between both Anderlecht and Steaua, and Split and Benfica.

In the UEFA Cup, first leg defeats.

Rovers' first European adventure will come to an embarrassing end in Sweden Tuesday if they fail to overturn their shock 1-0 defeat by the part-timers of Trelleborg.

Villa have a harder task in overcoming Inter Milan Thursday after falling victim to a dubious penalty at the San Siro Stadium.

Olympique Marseille, the 1993 European Cup winners who were relegated to the French second division after a match-rigging scandal, host Olympiakos with just one absentee.

FIVB approves new rules to make volleyball faster

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Volleyball players will be allowed to use all parts of their body, including their feet, and to touch the net accidentally after the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) approved new rules to make the game more spectacular.

"Each referee's interruption is an obstacle to keeping the interest of the spectators and viewers," FIVB President Ruben Acosta told a news conference on Monday after the federation's 24th congress adopted the rule changes.

"We must repeatedly commit ourselves to reducing to a minimum the interruptions, making them only when necessary," he said.

Players will now also be allowed to serve at any point along the endline and no

double faults will occur on a team's first reception of the ball. Under the old rules, players were not allowed to touch the ball with any part of their bodies under their knees.

The new rules will be compulsory for all tournaments beginning after Jan. 1 next year. Tournaments that begin before the end of this year with the old rules may continue the same rules into next year, Acosta said.

The Athens congress also approved of a six-year plan aimed at centennial year.

"Which are our most important goals? To professionalise the activity of all national federations in order to achieve greater economic independence which is imperative for rapid development" of the sport, Acosta said.

He said that \$15 million had been budgeted for the project which the federation dubbed world plan 2001.

"If in some years you come to realise that volleyball has become the most important sport in the world, do not think of this as a pure chance of circumstance," Acosta said, announcing the programme.

The world volleyball championship will be held in Athens and the northern Greek city of Salonica from Thursday, Sept. 29, through Saturday, Oct. 8.

Sixteen countries are taking part. They are Italy; Brazil, the United States, Germany, Argentina, Canada, Russia, Algeria, Greece, Cuba, China, Korea, Japan, Sweden Holland and Bulgaria.

Uruguayan signing pays Ipswich immediate dividends

LONDON (R) — The buzz around Portman Road as long-haired Uruguayan international Adrian Paz came onto the field Saturday took Ipswich's long-suffering fans back more than 10 years.

The feeling of belief reminiscent of the early 1980s when Ipswich were conducted from mid-field by Dutchmen Arnold Muhren and Frans Thijssen was palpable.

And Paz, recruited as a saviour for a side that barely escaped relegation last season, did not let the fans down after manager John Lyall had gone to fetch him from Argentina where he was playing for Estudiantes de la Plata on loan from Penarol of Uruguay.

"I'm very happy, because this is important in the fight

against relegation," Paz said after inspiring Ipswich to a 3-2 upset victory over champions Manchester United.

"I'm happy because it was the first time Ipswich have won at home in seven months," he said in a telephone interview from his Ipswich hotel after the match.

"My main aim is to try to help Ipswich finish higher than last season," Ipswich avoided the drop by one point.

Paz, signed for £900,000 (\$1.4 million), is hoping for better luck at Ipswich than Estudiantes, having failed to help the former world club champions avoid relegation in Argentina last month.

"I had a good season anyway and possibilities of a move to Mexico or Germany

as well. But I preferred England," he said.

Ipswich, who last won at home Feb. 22, are nine places off the bottom of the Premier League table after their second win of the season — they won away, 2-1 at Queen's Park Rangers, a month ago.

Before Saturday's victory, with two goals from Paul Mason and one from Steve Sedgley, Ipswich had scored only five in six league matches.

United pulled back to 2-2 before Sedgley struck the winner 10 minutes from time. The champions' defeat, their second of the season, left them six points adrift of leaders Newcastle.

Paz was only sure of making his debut as late as Friday when his international clear-

ance came through. He was finally granted a work permit Thursday, three weeks after arriving in Britain, despite his Credentials of 24 caps for Uruguay.

His Ipswich teammates, including new Dutch signing Claus Thomsen from Aertus, responded to his mere presence.

"We had not played any football together before. I couldn't do that until I'd got the work permit," he said. "All I'd done was simple training. I hadn't played a match for five weeks."

Although Manchester United — "they impressed me a lot, they are a well balanced team," Paz said — dominated, every time the Uruguayan carried the ball forward, Ipswich fans sensed

something was about to happen.

"I don't feel any pressure from being thought of as a saviour," the 25-year-old Uruguayan said. "I slotted in well and made some good moves."

But Paz admitted he found the pace much quicker than the English game.

He was injured shortly before halftime — the free kick led to Mason's and Ipswich's second goal which put them 2-0 up — and needed pain-killing injections during the interval.

"I'm worried because I sprained my knee and my ankle and they could take some time to get better," he said, adding he would not like to miss next weekend's match.

Top Romanian women strike over pay

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's women's gymnastics team, stars under communist rule and still among the world's best, have gone on strike claiming the new government is not rewarding them for their success.

Coach Octavian Bellu told Reuters Tuesday his "girls," the current European champions, had walked out of the training hall just two months before the world team championships in Dortmund, Germany.

"Our young gymnasts told me two days ago their decision to interrupt the in-door training sessions," he said. "My girls told me they don't want to work indoors. They will work only outdoors, jogging and so on but no training and no performing until this is resolved," Bellu said.

Lavinia Milosovici, 18, double gold medalist at the Barcelona Olympics and 1994 vault, said the government could not expect lifetime devotion without reward.

"I can't work years and years for nothing," Milosovici said. "My family are building a house and I need to

send them money."

Bellu dislikes the term "strike" but said he sympathised with the team.

"Even though they are the most famous of Romania's performers, for five months they haven't had the money prizes promised for their high success at the international contests on the spring," said Bellu, speaking from the Deva Olympic Gymnastics Centre.

Ten international-standard gymnasts are training at Deva, one of the so-called "performance plants" built as a communist show-case to produce some of the best athletes in the world including 1976 Montreal Olympic gold medalist Nadia Comaneci — first to win a perfect "10" in gymnastics.

Apart from Milosovici,

Gina Gogean, 17, was gold medalist in the vault at Brisbane and became three times European champion in Stockholm. The pair believe they are entitled to about 42 million lei (\$24,000) each for their achievements.

"All our gymnasts are morally wounded," Bellu said. "They are all of them convinced that the sport and youth ministry deceived them. When you are fighting for gold medal this is a deadly barrier to be the best in the world again," Bellu said.

An embarrassed Nicolae Marasescu, state secretary of the youth and ministry, promised to come up with the money as soon as possible. He blamed "artificial financial barriers" and bureaucracy.

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♣ 10 9 6 5

SOUTH
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The bidding:
South West North East
1: Pass 1: Pass
1: Pass 2: Pass
4: Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.
So you think the lot of the bridge writer is an easy one? Suppose that someone boasted how brilliantly this deal was played or defended. Would you accept their word for it? Study all four hands and decide whether you would rather play or defend four spades.

The auction is straightforward. South, loaded with playing tricks, is fully worth a jump to game once spades are supported.

The defenders cash the king and ace of clubs. West then shifts to the queen of hearts. Dummy wins, you

cash two high spades in hand and East discards a club. Whose side are you on?

If you elect to play, it's easy, looking at the cards, to take the diamond finesse. Not blessed with X-ray vision suppose you try to cash two high diamonds, West ruffs and exits with a trump and down you go. It's no better if you choose to lead a low diamond to the jack. East wins and returns the suit and West's ruff is the setting trick.

Better is to cash one high diamond and then lead a low diamond to the jack. If West ruffs, or if West discards and East wins the queen, you are home free. Trust us, but try it for yourself. However, the defenders can prevail if East allows the jack of diamonds to win! Locked in dummy, you have to surrender trump control to get back to your hand.

Does that mean you should defend? Not at all. The safest line is to cash the king of diamonds, jettisoning the jack from the table and continue with the ten! No matter what the defenders choose to do they will get only one more trick. You ruff the heart return and run winning diamonds at West. Whenever the defender chooses to ruff, you overruff with the queen, return to hand with a trump and make the rest of the diamonds.

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The Care Bears at 11:00 a.m.		BITTER MOON Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD "2" SLEEP WALKERS Shows: 3:15, 5:15							

U.S. ambassador not returning to Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley's departure early this month after only seven months on the job reflects a serious strain in relations between the United States and Lebanon, several Beirut newspapers claimed Tuesday.

The Lebanese government confirmed late Monday that it had been notified that Mr. Hambley, who left Beirut unannounced three weeks ago, was not returning to his post.

The U.S. State Department attributed Mr. Hambley's departure to unspecified health reasons, the Foreign Ministry said in a terse statement.

But many Beirut dailies claimed Lebanon's refusal to undertake peace talks with Israel without the support or knowledge of its main ally, Syria, was behind Mr. Hambley's departure.

Syria is the dominant power in Lebanon, with 40,000 troops stationed in northern, eastern and central Lebanon as peacekeepers to prevent the re-ignition of the 1975-1990 civil war.

Lebanon's leaders have repeatedly said the country's progress on the peace track was inseparable from that of

Syria, which demands Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon and from the strategic Golan Heights.

The leftist Al Safir said relations between Lebanon and the United States began to sour when Washington blocked a U.N. Security Council meeting to discuss Lebanon's complaint about a June 2 Israeli air attack on a Hizbollah base in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Up to 50 people were killed.

Hizbollah has been spearheading a guerrilla war to drive Israel from a border enclave it has occupied in South Lebanon since 1985 as a "security zone."

Relations worsened when the United States turned down a request by Lebanese President Elias Hrawi for a meeting with President Bill Clinton at the White House, suggesting instead a meeting on the fringe of the U.N. General Assembly session in New York, Al Safir said.

Mr. Hrawi rejected the U.S. suggestion on the grounds the issues to be discussed were far too important to be handled in a brief encounter at the U.N. headquarters, Al Safir added.

Al Safir and other Beirut dailies called the U.S. prop-

osal a humiliating snub.

"Lebanon may be a pin-point on the map but it refuses to be a banana republic or an American ranch owned by a cowboy who is only good at drinking whisky and shooting his gun," said columnist Rajeh Khoury in the prestigious Al Nahar.

Publisher Aouni Kaaki of the pro-Syrian Al Sharq said Mr. Hrawi's refusal to meet Mr. Clinton in New York "was not intended to make America an enemy but rather to defend Lebanon's dignity."

Al Safir said Mr. Hambley's departure heralded a sweeping reshuffle of U.S. embassy staff in Beirut linked to the Middle East peace negotiations.

It said Mr. Hambley's reports on Lebanon's stance in the talks had "irked some pro-Israeli officials" in the Clinton administration, who labelled him as too sympathetic to Lebanon.

Al Safir and other newspapers said Mr. Hambley's departure was followed by the recall of the embassy's senior political officer, David Hale, which will be followed soon by the departure of Charge d'Affaires Vincent Battle.



KING MEETS BILTAJI: His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received at the Royal Court Egyptian Minister of Tourism Mamdouh Biltaji. During the meeting, attended by Tourism Minister Mohammad Adwan, the visiting Egyptian

minister conveyed to the King greetings from President Hosni Mubarak and discussed with the King Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in tourism (see story on page 3)

Arab League assails Iran in islands row

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League on Tuesday condemned Iranian threats that it could resort to military force in its growing dispute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over three strategic Gulf islands.

"Recent Iranian declarations are heightening the tension in this fragile region of the world and do not go hand in hand with the Arab desire to improve relations with Iran," said the League spokesman Talaat Hamed.

He said that the UAE proposal to let the International Court of Justice rule in the dispute "conforms to the principles of international law and shows the emirates' desire to solve peacefully" the problem.

The proposal backed by

the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has been rejected by Iran.

On Monday Tehran ordered veterans of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war to report for military training, as Iranian leaders repeated warnings to the UAE over its claims to sovereignty over Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb.

The UAE has accused Iran of annexing Abu Musa in 1972 which since 1971 had been jointly administered by Tehran and the UAE emirate of Sharjah in line with a British-Iranian agreement.

Abu Dhabi later laid claim to the other islands which all lie at the entrance to the vital Hormuz Straits in the Gulf.

Arab League Secretary General Esmaat Abdul

Meguid will press the U.N. General Assembly in New York "to confirm the UAE's right to recover their sovereignty over the three Arab islands," Mr. Hamed added.

The UAE and its partners in the GCC urged Tehran last week to accept international arbitration on the island dispute following the collapse of bilateral negotiations in 1992.

But Iranian Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi has reaffirmed his country's sovereignty of the islands, which he said "belonged to Iran even before the UAE existed as an independent country."

"Remember what happened to Iraq: 'A country more important and militarily stronger than all of you put

together," he warned.

The UAE news agency WAM said Tuesday that India supported the UAE decision to seek international arbitration in the dispute.

UAE Foreign Ministry Acting Under-Secretary Saif Said discussed the dispute with Indian Foreign Office Under-Secretary Salman Haidar, the official agency said.

Mr. Said briefed the Indian official on the UAE's intention to refer "the subject of the three UAE islands occupied by Iran to the International Court of Justice," it said.

"The Indian official expressed his country's support for the idea of referring this dispute to the International Court of Justice," it said.

COLUMN

3 scientists awarded U.N. environment prize

NAIROBI (AFP) — M.S. Swaminathan of India and Paul and Anne Ehrlich of the United States have been awarded the 1994 U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) prize for their life-long work dedicated to the protection of the environment, a UNEP statement said. It said UNEP's Selection Committee had decided to award the Sasakawa Environment Prize to the three world-renowned scientists due to their great contribution to the improvement of the quality of life on this planet. Mr. Swaminathan, the director of the Centre for Research on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development, in Madras, India, has for the past 40 years played a pivotal role in the conservation of biological diversity. The Ehrlichs, based at Stanford University in California, have become leading authorities on population and the environment and their work has had an unparalleled impact on the field of environmental science and policy, the statement said. The Sasakawa Prize, worth \$200,000, is one of the most prestigious environmental awards in the world, and its past winners have included Chico Mendes, the rubber tapper from Brazil who died leading the fight against cattle ranchers' destruction of the rainforest, and Lester Brown, the director of Worldwatch Institute, whose writings have been instrumental in alerting the world about the threats to the biosphere. The official award ceremony will be held in San Francisco, California, on Nov. 10.

Erred cancer diagnoses affect 43 patients

WELLINGTON (AFP) — A pathologist suffering from Parkinson's Disease misdiagnosed the cancer biopsies of 43 patients, including six who had unnecessary mastectomies, a health authority revealed Tuesday. The state-owned Good Health Wanganui (GHW), based north of Wellington, ordered a review of all cancer biopsies after it discovered the errors committed by pathologist James Burkinshaw. Dr. Burkinshaw, who has retired, was found to be suffering from Parkinson's Disease, a progressive disease of the nervous system. GHW said in a statement that it had completed a review of more than 4000 cases. Serious errors in diagnosis led to six unnecessary mastectomies, 15 cases where cancer existed but was not diagnosed, and one unnecessary hysterectomy. In the third and final batch of tests, 722 biopsy cases were reviewed and a further 15 serious misdiagnoses were discovered.

Kenyan MP jailed for forgery

NAIROBI (AFP) — A Kenyan opposition member of parliament has been sentenced to a 12-month jail term for forging government documents, local newspapers said Tuesday. A magistrate's court here found Otiemo K'Opiyo, MP for the opposition FORD-Kenya Party, guilty of forging a government veterinarian's certificate to allow him to export beef. Mr. K'Opiyo committed the offence before he was elected MP in December 1992. He will lose his seat for failing to attend parliament during his stay in prison.

Clinton's half-brother to sing in S. Korea

SEOUL (AFP) — Roger Clinton, pop singer and stepbrother of U.S. President Bill Clinton, will sing at concerts in South Korea next month to raise funds for the handicapped, the show's organizer said Tuesday. Mr. Clinton will perform twice in Seoul on Oct. 22 and 23, with local singers joining in the concerts to be organised by the non-profit North East Asia Studies Institute, a spokesman for the institute said. He will also meet with government officials and throw a party in downtown Seoul on Oct. 24 to celebrate the publication of the Korean-language edition of Reading With My Heart, a portrait of his mother, Virginia Kelly.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab League seeks Chinese help at U.N.

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League has urged China to block Israeli attempts to change U.N. resolutions concerning Arab and Palestinian causes, the local Middle East News Agency reported. "The Arab League has asked China to continue its support for the just Arab cause...and to block any Israeli attempts to drop (U.N.) resolutions linked with the Palestinian cause from the (U.N. General Assembly's) agenda," MENA quoted Saied Kamal, assistant secretary general at the league, as saying. Mr. Kamal was speaking to journalists after meeting China's Ambassador to Egypt Yang Fu Chang. The U.N. General Assembly opened its 49th session last Tuesday. China is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. Israel and the United States have tried in other General Assembly meetings to drop or modify U.N. resolutions concerning Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees, dismantling Israeli settlements and the occupation of the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon, calling them "obsolete." Egypt and the Arab League on Sunday said they would block the American and Israeli attempts. Foreign Minister Amr Musa said the resolutions "are not to be touched," while Arab League Deputy-General Adnan Omran said the attempts have "no judicial foundation."

Saddam blasts U.S. intervention in Haiti

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraq's President Saddam Hussein has accused the United States of trampling on human rights while claiming to protect them by intervening in Haiti, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. The agency, monitored here, said that President Saddam told a cabinet meeting that Washington wanted to occupy Haiti and impose a political regime on it by force. "What threat is this small country to the national security of the United States," said the Iraqi leader. He asked, "Why imperialist governments do not resort to dialogue and negotiation rather than pressure and threats if they really support the right of states to sovereignty and democracy," INA said. Human rights were not born in the United States, which massacred native Americans and enslaved Africans, but in Iraq with the code of Hammurabi in 2,000 BC, and then with the Prophet Mohammad and the Koran, he said.

Kuwaiti security forces, Iraqis clash

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwaiti security forces and Iraqi infiltrators have exchanged gunfire along the northern desert border, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported Tuesday. In the past two days Iraqi infiltrators have opened fire after sneaking across the border prompting Kuwaiti police to shoot back, the daily Al Qabas said. "The security forces arrested some of the Iraqis but others escaped," the paper added. There were no reports of casualties, it added, without giving further details. The reports were not confirmed by either the Kuwaiti interior ministry or the U.N. Iraqi-Kuwaiti Observation Mission (UNKOM).

Syrian newspaper blasts IAEA decision

DAMASCUS (AP) — State-run Syrian newspaper Tuesday accused the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of creating a "real danger" in the Middle East by restoring full technical assistance to Israel. "The continuation of the Israeli nuclear armament obviously hinders the international moves to make the Middle East free from mass-destruction weapons," said the English-language Syria Times daily. Al Baath newspaper, mouthpiece of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, said it was a "deadly mistake" to think that Israel's armament will drag it to peace. "It is also wrong to think that the Arabs will ever accept any conditions under the brunt of Israel's possession of destructive and awful weapons," it said. "The region will remain tense and liable to unknown destiny so long as the Israelis are still clinging to the logic of power and aggression and so long as Israel's supporters are still considering Israel's security as the most important in the region," the paper said. The IAEA, the main U.N. nuclear monitoring organisation.

Beirut to free ship that carried Israeli salt

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government has decided to release a Cypriot ship detained last year for carrying a shipment of Israeli salt into Beirut port, security sources said Tuesday. They said the government decided to release the Vassiliko Bay after all "necessary judicial steps" have been taken and after the confiscating of the salt shipment. The sources did not say when the vessel will leave Beirut. They did not say why the Vassiliko Bay was being released but high-level Cypriot officials have on recent visits to Beirut raised the issue of the ship, detained in August 1993 for breaking the Arab trade embargo against Israel.

Manila's labour secretary in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Manila's labour secretary is visiting Riyadh to brief Saudi officials on new measures by the Philippine government to help curtail the problem of "runaway" housemaids, diplomats said Tuesday. Some 500,000 Filipinos work in Saudi Arabia as overseas contract workers (OCWs). An estimated 75 per cent of them hold non-professional jobs which includes domestic work.

8 militants sentenced to prison in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — A court on Tuesday sentenced eight Muslim extremists to prison terms of up to 15 years for plotting murders and stealing gold to finance radical activities. Three other defendants were found innocent.

Meanwhile, police arrested 50 suspected militants in raids in Al Minya and Assiut, provinces in southern Egypt known as strongholds of Islamic radicals trying to overthrow Egypt's secular government.

The past two weeks have seen an increase in battles between the radicals and police in southern Egypt. At least 18 people have been killed this month. Since 1992 when the radicals began their campaign to impose Islamic rule, more than 415 people have died.

In Tuesday's sentencing, the supreme state security court in Banha, 40 kilometres north of Cairo, gave two men 15 years in prison, one 12 years and the rest from one to three years. As is customary in Egypt, the verdicts and sentences were announced together.

According to the prosecutor, the defendants belonged to an illegal group called "Al Wathikun Min Al Nasr," or those certain of victory. In 1991, they robbed a gold shop owned by a Christian, wounding three people as they opened fire on their way out.

They also were charged with planning to assassinate a prison official and a well-known secular writer. Both the official and the writer, Farag Foda, were later killed by another movement, Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, or the Islamic Group.

Islamic militants have attacked several captive-owned jewelry stores saying that a religious decree from their leaders allowed theft of property from non-Muslims in order to finance the struggle for an Islamic state.

President Hosni Mubarak in late 1992 switched the trials of Islamic militants to military courts, where sentences are generally harsher and deliberations speedier.

Police have arrested a man who was paid \$30 a month to spot tourists for Islamic militants planning to attack them, the daily Al Akhbar said Tuesday.

Ahmad Aid Hussein, who was caught in the act in Suez, said the outlawed Gamaa Al Islamiyah paid him the wage to keep an eye out for tourist coaches, the paper said.

Until now Suez, which is on the Suez Canal 135 kilometres east of Cairo, has not been the main focus of militant attacks which have concentrated on Cairo and the southern region of Upper Egypt.

Foreigners have been targeted by the militants.

Meanwhile police continued a crackdown on militants suspected of belonging to the Gamaa and of being involved in the murder in April of a security services chief General Rauf Khairat.

Bitter battle for control of Kabul University

KABUL (Agencies) — Kabul University was the scene of intense fighting Tuesday as infantry forces of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani battled the Shiite faction Hezb-e-Wahdat with small arms, tanks and heavy artillery for control of the campus.

"We captured the university yesterday afternoon but this morning Wahdat counter-attacked," said a pro-Rabbani frontline officer.

Fighting on the eastern front where Hezb-e-Islami is based has all but stopped and the focus of Afghanistan's bloody civil war has shifted to southwest Kabul, where an estimated 2,300 people have been killed and up to 800 killed in two weeks.

The fighting in southwest Kabul erupted two weeks ago when Wahdat attacked the Shiite rivals, the Harakat-e-Islami faction. Later Pro-Rabbani troops sided with Harakat and ex-Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami sided with Wahdat.

But the latest surge in violence marked the first time since the start of the year that a major force of Rabbani troops have entered into a direct fight with Wahdat.

Journalists escorted by a group of these soldiers were ambushed by Wahdat as they attempted to gain entry to the American-built engineering faculty on the eastern side of the university, and were forced to retreat under rocket and Kalashnikov fire.

Contrary to assurances by Defence Ministry officials that the university had been

totally cleared by pro-Rabbani troops, Wahdat clearly still held the southern perimeter of the campus, including the Institute of Technology and some dormitory blocks, as well as the adjacent Ghazi High School.

Lying face down in a grassy depression next to a large pool of fresh blood from some previously wounded soldier is bullets spat through the trees and an anti-tank rocket exploded within metres, sending a shock-wave ripping overhead, the pro-Rabbani escort were obviously taken by surprise.

After the journalists safely evacuated the campus, a soldier wearing a traditional Afghan winter greatcoat fired several rounds from his recoilless at Wahdat in the Technology Institute, then a shower of mortar bombs was fired in return.

No injuries were inflicted upon the pro-Rabbani troops in this exchange but one soldier said that earlier in the fighting 10 of his comrades were wounded and two killed.

Kabul University campus is now a military base for Wahdat. The final-year students are taking classes further west at the Polytechnic Institute situated below the Intercontinental Hotel. A rocket exploding there last week killed 10 people, including five lecturers.

Most, but not all, civilians have evacuated the area from Dehmadang Square to Salaam Hill behind the university, where row after row of homes show some sign of destruction from artillery fire.

Prices surge as food becomes scarce in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — A rush on staple foods is pushing up prices in Baghdad as Iraqis scramble to cope with a government decision to cut rations by as much as half.

The government decided on Sunday to reduce food rations, blaming a poor harvest and continuing U.N. trade sanctions, imposed to punish Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Meagre as they were, the rations starved off starvation and made available around half a person's basic needs at give-away prices.

"It is very worrying, particularly for children in poor families," Thomas Ekvall, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) representative in Iraq, told Reuters. He feared an increase in

malnutrition.

Each Iraqi will now receive every month six kilogrammes of flour instead of nine kilogrammes, 1.25 kilogrammes of rice instead of 2.5 kilogrammes, 750 grammes of sugar instead of 1.5 kilogrammes, and 625 grammes of cooking oil instead of 750.

The U.N. hands out its own food rations to about half a million Iraqis it terms "destitute persons" and almost twice that number in northern Iraq, now under Kurdish rebel control.

Mr. Ekvall said the cut back would reduce each person's daily intake of calories and protein by as much as half.

Civil servants and members of the armed forces will receive 2,000 dinars a month each to meet the shortfall.

But the decision had an immediate impact on prices which reached unprecedented levels on Tuesday.

Prices almost doubled, making it impossible for salaried people to make up for the cut in their rations.

The official exchange rate is about 500 dinars to the dollar and the illegal black-market between 600 to 700.

Flour almost doubled to nearly 200 dinars a kilogramme, sugar from 230 dinars a kilogramme to about 500. Prices of items dropped in the new rationing system, like razor blades, matches, shaving cream, salt and tooth paste also doubled.

The government said the measure was to "organise economic conditions" and

urged the Iraqis to remain "steadfast" and be patient.

But it seems the decision, the harshest since sanctions came into force more than four years ago, was taken when it became clear that the embargo would not be eased or lifted soon as earlier thought.

The official press lambasted the United States, which it said was behind efforts to maintain the stiff regime of sanctions intact despite Baghdad's cooperation with the U.N. on dismantling of its big weapons.

Baghdad newspapers carried a speech by President Saddam Hussein in which he lashed out at the West, describing it as "immoral, bankrupt, bloodthirsty, vicious and hypocritical."